

Mr. G. H. Amer. Bib. Soc.
EXTRACTS OF LETTERS 21

FROM THE

REV. JOHN PATERSON,

AND THE

REV. EBENEZER HENDERSON,

DURING THEIR

RESPECTIVE TOURS

THROUGH THE

**EAST SEA PROVINCES OF RUSSIA, SWEDEN,
DENMARK, JUTLAND, HOLSTEIN,
SWEDISH POMERANIA, &c.**

TO PROMOTE THE OBJECT

OF THE

British and Foreign Bible Society.

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**1817.**  
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EXTRACTS OF LETTERS

FROM THE

REV. JOHN PATERSON.

St. Petersburg, April 27, 1816.

I TAKE my pen, this morning, to give you some account of the last Meeting of our Committee, which was held the day before yesterday.

Two copies of our German Bible were presented, and gave universal satisfaction. We shall be able to sell both Bibles and Testaments nearly as cheap as the Halle editions. We feel happy that we have these 5000 Bibles, as they are much wanted; it is impossible to get them from Germany, the numerous Bible Societies there, needing more than can be supplied. We have printed 1000 Testaments, apart. The Georgian New Testament was presented, and filled every heart with joy. Our Georgian brethren have long been desiring this boon: they could neither procure it themselves, nor did any man seem to care for them. The subject of printing the Georgian Bible was again before our Committee. It was proposed by the Moscow friends, that, instead of printing the Bible with church characters, as the New Testament is, it should be printed with civil characters. The advantage is, that, where one can read the former, ten, it is said, can read the latter. This the Committee saw to be of too great importance for them to decide on, as they found the data insufficient. It was therefore resolved to write directly to our friends in Georgia, on the subject, and to learn their opinion on the spot. It will delay the whole work some time, but may lead to results of the highest consequence.

A most interesting paper was brought before us from the Governor of Irkutsk, in Siberia, on the subject of a translation into the Mongolian and Manjur languages. The Gospel of Matthew had been received in the Calmuc, and a part decyphered by one

of the learned men there. The consequence was, that they found the language was precisely the same as that of the written language among the Mongolian tribes in that government, especially the Burjats, and perfectly understood by them. All the difference is in the character, as the Siberian Mongolians use the Manjur, which, although it resembles the Calmuc, yet differs so much, that those of one tribe cannot read the books used by the other, so as to understand them. Mr. Schmidt was requested to make himself master of the Manjur character, and to write his translation in it; and I am to procure, if practicable, the casting of types for the Manjur. The Governor also points out a plan by which the translation might be continued in the Mongolian, and at the same time be made into the Manjur. There are here two gentlemen of education, who, having spent many years in Pekin, are perfectly masters of the Manjur. It is the wish of the Committee to form, with them, and our excellent Treasurer, a Mongolian Manjur Committee, for the purpose of ascertaining what can be done.

Last night, I had a most interesting interview with the Archimandrite Seraphin, an Armenian, who is just arrived here. He speaks many languages, and even English, which he learned from some Englishmen in Arabia; he has travelled much, and personally knew the excellent Mr. Martyn, in whose company he was, a fortnight before his death, and from whom he had a letter, a few days only before he left this world. He speaks highly of him. As he has been long in Turkey, and knows the language and the state of his countrymen there, I inquired of him as to the propriety of Mr. Rich's idea of printing the Turkish Testament with Armenian characters. He was convinced, that it would be of the greatest importance for his nation in those countries, and offered to edit the work himself, provided we could print it here.

St. Petersburg, May 31, 1816.

I REJOICE to be able to inform you, that our good and great benefactor, His Imperial Majesty, has, this week, presented the Society with a house for their depôt, printing-office, &c. It is worth more than 100,000 rubles, in the centre of the town, and situated on one of the canals in the midst of the Imperial Gardens. As the Committee have again most earnestly solicited me to continue to conduct the work, and on no account to leave them for any length of time, till I have finished what I had begun, they have requested me to accept of apartments in the house, that I might be always at hand. This I have complied with, and hope for your approbation.

As paper here is dear, and not so good as we could wish, we had petitioned his Majesty to allow us to import from Holland,

paper for the current year, and showed him, that it would, this year, save us 15,000 rubles. He refused our request, for the sake of the Russian paper manufactories; but, that the Society might not lose thereby, presented us with the 15,000 rubles. What shall we say to these things? They must at least encourage us to work.



St. Petersburg, June 13, 1816.

SOME time ago, I wrote to our friend, Mr. Owen, respecting the translation of the New Testament into Turkish, and printing it with Armenian characters for the use of the many thousand Armenians, who understand only the Turkish language, and read only the Armenian character: I also mentioned, that I had found an Armenian Archimandrite, able and willing to undertake the work. In consequence of the conversation I had with him, he commenced it, and found another learned Armenian, perfectly acquainted with the Turkish, to assist him in its prosecution. Encouraged by these circumstances, the Archimandrite drew up a memorial in the French language, on the subject, addressed to the Russian, and British and Foreign Bible Societies,* which was read at the last Meeting. This memorial, which is well written; was heard with pleasure. The Committee entered fully into the subject, and unanimously resolved to undertake the whole expense of the work. Nevertheless, as the memorial on this subject was addressed to both Societies, perhaps it would be proper for you to assist in the expense.

The Meeting was closed by reading the Rev. Henry Lindsay's account of the seven churches in Asia, which led the Committee to resolve upon doing every thing in their power to co-operate with you from this side, in furnishing the Greeks and Armenians in Turkey, with the word of God.



St. Petersburg, June 16, 1816.

YESTERDAY, the Russian Bible Society held its Third Anniversary in the Taurian Palace. At the hour appointed, the Hall was nearly full: many strangers were present; and, among others, the eminently worthy representative of the British nation, and of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Earl of Cathcart. When his Lordship came into the room, he pressed my hand, and, looking round on the company, observed, "Here we behold men of all nations assembled." "Yes," I added, "and for the most glorious purpose of sending the Bible to all nations." Our noble

* See page 123, of the 13th Report.

President, Prince Galitzin, took his seat at the head of the table, supported, on the right, by that distinguished Prelate, the Archbishop Michael, and, on the left, by the Roman Catholic Metropolitan. The President opened the Meeting with a short but peculiarly excellent speech. The Secretary, Mr. Papoff, then read the Report—a most interesting document, in which, to show the progress made by the Society in its means, and in its work, a comparison was stated between the two first years of its existence, and the last year. One hundred and fifty-seven thousand, one hundred, copies of the Scriptures have been printed, are in hand, or about to be printed, in thirty editions, and sixteen different languages. Besides which, translations are preparing in the Modern Russian, and Matthew and John finished; and in the Turkish with Armenian characters, of which Matthew is nearly finished: these will make the number of the languages eighteen. Facts were mentioned, and extracts of correspondence read, which proved that the divine blessing had rested in an eminent degree on the Society's endeavours to distribute the Holy Scriptures. The poor have thereby been enriched, the bands of the prisoner loosened, the sick and the dying comforted, the prodigal reclaimed, and the heavenly pilgrim strengthened for his journey, and enabled to proceed on his way rejoicing. Nominal Christians, who, in consequence of their being deprived of the light of divine revelation for centuries past, either worshipped they knew not what, or were beginning to adore the works of their own hands, or to pay their devotions at the shrine of the false prophet, have seen a light shine in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in their hearts. Heathens and Mahomedans have seen the star in the east, which in due time will lead them, through the tender mercies of our God, to the Child born, and the Son given. Such are the facts, my dear friend, contained in this Report. I wish you could with me have taken your seat behind our Noble President, where you would have had the whole of this august assembly in view, and, although you would have heard these facts detailed in a foreign language, you would yet have read, in the countenances of all present, men of all nations and confessions, in a language you perfectly understand, the full import of what was detailed, in the expressive looks of astonishment and joy, of gratitude, praise, and supplication. A tribute of just commendation was paid to our great and good Patron, His Imperial Majesty. What the British and Foreign Bible Society had done for Russia, was delineated in a manner which showed, that, in this god-like cause, there was a blessing in receiving, as well as in giving. The gratitude of the Committee, and of the whole assembly, was expressed towards the Noble Representative of your Society; and his Lordship evidently felt the honour done to him and his country. All was profound silence till the Report was finished, when expressions of congratulation ran through the whole assembly.

THE following is the substance of the speech delivered by the President, Prince Galitzin, upon the above occasion :

" It is now the third time, unanimous reverers of the word of God, that you are assembled with one heart in this place, in order to survey the proceedings of our Society during the past year, and to mark the steps by which it has advanced towards the accomplishment of its object, the extension of the knowledge and salutary effects of the written word of God, not only among your fellow-subjects, and those who, with you, are one in faith, but, as much as possible, *among all nations who dwell upon the face of the earth, who, indeed, are one blood with yourselves.* From the Report which is now to be read, you will learn, that the past year equals, and even exceeds, both the former years together. It equals them both in its income, and, therefore, in the means of supporting the Society's exertions ; it exceeds them in the most important branch of their activity, the preparation of copies of the Sacred Scriptures, for supplying those who were in want of them, according to their numbers, their language, the place of their abode, and other circumstances.

" The progressive establishment of new Auxiliaries, and the unanimity and harmony of the different Branches of the Russian Bible Society, materially lighten its burden under its multifarious and diversified exertions, and extend more and more its sphere of action. The abundance of one Branch supplies the wants of the other. The one suggests a new undertaking ; the other executes, or, at least, takes part in it. The one increases the general funds ; the other employs them for the common use of all. The one furnishes copies of the Sacred Scriptures ; the other distributes them.

" A like mutual participation, on the part of the British and Foreign Bible Society, claims, on this solemn occasion, our most serious acknowledgments. Is a difficult undertaking commencing here ? Already assistance hastens from that distant land. Is a new Branch of our Society forming, which needs pecuniary support ? This support is already granted ; and that, sometimes, on the mere intelligence, that the formation of such a Branch is in contemplation. Is our Society successful ? Already we hear from afar the voice of joy, encouraging us to surmount every obstacle, while as yet this success had scarcely attracted our own attention. Such is the alliance, of which the compact is written in the Bible only.

" But we hasten to repose on a more solid foundation, and which the Russian Bible Society can call its own, and to derive our best hopes from a nearer and still more abundant source. I refer to the continued benevolence which our most gracious Sovereign manifests towards our Institution. Since his return to the bosom of his native country, especially, he has taken a more active part in promoting the distribution of the Sacred Scriptures ; not only

by the influence of his name, and his liberality, but also by the particular attention which he pays to the progress of the work. He not only approves of whatever contributes to forward the views of the Society, but gives new life to its activity, by the suggestions of his own heart. He himself opens the seal of a language, which, from its being less intelligible, had veiled from many Russians the Gospel of Jesus; and lays it open to children, from whom not design, but the effects of time, had hitherto concealed it.

"In the events which happen, if we are only attentive to them, we may hear the voice, and see the finger, of Providence. Will it then be considered as the working of an overheated imagination, if we view these new events, in regard to the Russian Bible Society, as the pronouncing of new blessings upon it, and designed to lead us with humble reverence to lift up our thankful hearts to the God and Father of the word; and if, trusting in Him for assistance, we feel our confidence confirmed, and our zeal renewed in prosecuting a service—so easy for all—the dissemination of the holy word? Will it then be considered as the working of an overheated imagination, if, when considering the increasing exertions of the Bible Society in our own country, together with the rapid progress of similar Institutions throughout the whole world, combined with all the influences, which we have reason to believe must follow in their train, we should seem to behold, in the midst of the heavens, the angel flying, having the everlasting Gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation and kindred, and tongue and people? The suggestion of this idea, will certainly cause every one present to desire, from the very bottom of his heart, that this mighty angel may also overshadow our country, and that he may impart to our earthly service in the heavenly Gospel some communications from the strength of his wings.

"To the general desire, we must, perhaps, unite the particular wish, in regard to some, that a single eye may be given to them, that the appearance of this angelic Publisher of the Gospel, or to speak more plainly, the work of the Bible Society, may not appear to them as merely imaginary and delusive. It is lamentable to think, that there are still more to whom the very simplicity of this work seems mysterious, and who, blind to the effects of the Bible Society, which are open to all, seem to discover some concealed objects, though it is evident, from the very fundamental principle of its constitution, that it cannot have any. But let us hope that the course of time, and the providence of Him who has given us his word, will bring *them* also gradually to see, that God, who formerly designed, by the foolishness of preaching, to save the world, which by wisdom knew him not, wills, at present, that we should sow dead letters, and cold leaves, that from them might be produced spirit and life."

I trust the above speech will be considered as a most important document, keeping in view the quarter whence it came, the audience to which it was delivered, and the topics on which it touched. You see distinctly stated a principle, which, from the commencement of the Society, was, in part, recognised, and acted upon, that of promoting the distribution of the Holy Scriptures, not only among the inhabitants of the Russian Empire, but, as far as circumstances will permit, among all the nations of the earth. The Society has already furnished Greek and Armenian Christians, who live beyond the confines of the empire, with the sacred oracles of their faith, and is preparing to do so on a more extensive scale. Heathens and Mahomedans have received from the Society the word of eternal life, in their own languages; and the manner in which they have received the gift, encourages the Committee to proceed, yea imperiously calls upon them to do still more. I informed you, some time ago, of the desire of the Burjats (a Mongolian tribe, in Siberia) to have the New Testament in their own language, or rather printed with their own characters. Since we arrived here, we have heard that they have enforced that desire with an argument which evinces their sincerity, and speaks to every heart. They have collected the sum of 10,000 rubles, for the express purpose of printing the Scriptures in their language. Is not this one of the events which our Noble President so emphatically refers to? Do we not, in this instance, hear the voice, and see the finger, of God? Our worthy Secretary, who is sitting beside me, justly remarks, "Who has told these poor Heathens of the value of the word of God? Who has put it into their hearts to desire to have this treasure in their tongue? Who has enabled them to desire such liberal things for this purpose? It is, indeed, the work of Him who does all things according to the counsel of his own will." It has roused our friends in St. Petersburg to new exertions; and, when heard in England, it will not be lost on the friends of the Bible there. I think, we may safely say, that this example is unparalleled. Let us meet it with unparalleled exertions on our part!



Baldohn, July 15, 1816.*

ON the evening of the 12th, we arrived at Dorpat. Our friends in that town having, previously to our leaving St. Petersburg, been informed of our intention to visit them, the Committee had assembled, in order to consult with us on the affairs of the Society; and, though several of the Members live at a considerable distance in the country, even as

* Mr. Paterson undertook a journey to the East Sea Provinces in company with His Excellency, Mr. Papoff, to visit the various Bible Societies established there.

far as 50 or 60 wersts, yet they arrived in town, on the evening of the 13th; and, having spent that, and the following day, in obtaining information concerning the state of their affairs, we met with them on the evening of the 14th. That worthy man, the Rev. Mr. Roth, Dean of the district, was in the chair. The account they gave us of the avidity and joy with which the people had received the New Testament, quite delighted us. Indeed it exceeds all expectation. These truly pious people did not receive the Testaments, without comparing them with the former edition, which they had learnt to value in proportion to its scarceness; but, finding that it was the same word of God, unaltered, they came forward with much eagerness, soliciting copies of it, so that the whole edition of 5000 copies is already nearly exhausted: only a few hundred copies remain on hand, and they will not be sufficient to supply the requisitions of the present autumn. As only one New Testament could, previously, be found among 800 persons, the present edition is only a drop in the ocean. It had been intended to attempt introducing the Revalian dialect into the schools, and among the young; and the present edition of 5000 copies was designed only for those who were more advanced in age; but there was a diversity of sentiment in the Committee, with regard to the practicability of this measure; the decided preference given, by old and young, to their own dialect, had convinced all of the expediency of furnishing them with a plentiful supply of New Testaments, at least, in their own dialect, and of the necessity of introducing it into the schools, if they wished to excite a desire to read a book which the learners easily understand. After much judicious discussion, it was declared, that the experience of the Society proved that it was desirable to put the New Testament, in the Dorpatian dialect, into the hands of every individual capable of reading it, and that, for this purpose, from 50 to 60,000 copies would be required. But as for the Old Testament, it not being translated into their dialect, they would with it give a fair trial to their plan of introducing the Revalian dialect into their district, as the book-language, and, on this account, will take the benefit of the privilege, afforded them by the manner in which the 1000*l.* have been granted for the Esthonian Bible.

Observing what they wished to propose, I saved their modesty, and assured them, that the British and Foreign Bible Society would be so satisfied with their zeal, and gratified with the reception their edition had met with from the people, that I had no doubt it would defray the expense of stereotype plates for the New Testament in their dialect, and that I would lay it before the Committee. I am sure, could you have been witnesses, it would have served instead of a thousand arguments to enforce the propriety of granting them 300*l.* for this express purpose. It must be considered, that it is not only 40 or 50,000 copies which will be needed. These are required immediately; and, if introduced

as a school book, will soon need to be re-placed by new editions. The affair of correcting the press for every new edition, is a very serious one to our friends. They had to print the last edition in Mittau, and to send all the proof sheets, by post, to the Rev. Mr. Roth. By complying with this request, you will enable another of your children to provide for itself. Poor as the district is, they seem to proceed with so much spirit, that they bid fair to be able, in future, to pay for paper, printing, and binding, without any foreign assistance; and thus to supply their own wants, at least as far as concerns the New Testament. I have only to observe, that, although the language is nearly the same as the Revalian, there is yet so much difference as renders it difficult for them to understand a book in the latter dialect; this difficulty proves so discouraging to them at the outset, that they become disheartened. We cannot make the oracles of truth too plain for the common people, especially the New Testament.

We recommended to their particular notice the seven parishes in the Dorpatian circle, where the Dorpatian dialect is spoken. They immediately offered to procure copies from Reval, and to supply them, at the same price as they had done in their own dialect, which will be with the loss of more than half a ruble on each copy. As I think it is of great importance to encourage this spirit, may I suggest to you the propriety of granting them 500 rubles from your funds for this express purpose? Their zeal will exceed their ability. We proposed to them opening a regular Bible Depository in the town, which was immediately agreed to. They are to get 150 of the 1000 German Bibles as a supply in the German language. For this gift they felt particularly thankful to your Committee.

I cannot describe how much we were gratified, on meeting these excellent men. The spirit, the business-like manner, in which every thing was transacted, were truly pleasing. They were no less delighted, on meeting with us, especially with His Excellency, Mr. Papoff. It formed a closer union between them and the Committee in St. Petersburg; and they could not refrain from openly acknowledging, that they had now very different views of the subject from what they had entertained before having conversed with His Excellency. They could not conceive it possible, that Ministers and Princes could enter with so much interest into the cause, as our official documents seemed to indicate. They had now a specimen of the spirit by which the Committee in St. Petersburg are actuated; and this inspired them with a confidence they did not before possess.

The Dean has established in this parish a Bible Association among the peasants. Some subscribe ten, others fifty copeks annually, some a ruble, and even more. Mr. Forster, one of the elders of the Moravian Brethren, is President; his assistant, Mr. Schmidt, is Treasurer; the worthy Dean, first

Secretary; a young peasant is the second Secretary, who keeps the accounts, writes the Protocol, &c. in a business-like manner; six peasants are Directors. The Society consists of between three and four hundred peasants. The Committee meet regularly for business in the bouse of their pastor. At first, they were a little shy of persons so much their superiors, and particularly when invited to sit with them at the same table, to consult about matters of so much importance. Now they feel themselves quite at ease; and the wortby Dean assured us, with the tear of joy sparkling in his eye, that he had seldom heard so much good sense, or remarks so judicious, as those uttered by these good peasants in their Meetings of the Committee. This summer, they held their first Annual Meeting; the whole Society assembled at the Parsonage, and walked, in solemn procession, two and two, with the Committee at their head, to the Church. The Meeting was opened with a song of praise. After a prayer, the Report was read, and the Treasurer gave an account of the income and expcnditure during the year. An extract from the Report of the Dorpat Society was now read by their Pastor; and afterwards a short account of the proceedings of the Russian Bible Society, the British and Foreign Bible Society, and of the progress of the work throughout the whole world. The Meeting concluded in a religious manner, in which several clergymen, who attended for the purpose, took part. The effect produced was astonishing. The poor peasants saw themselves to be fellow-workers with all who are good and great, in the best of causes. Their ideas were expanded, and they retired with reluctance from this most interesting Meeting. A number became subscribers, who had not contribnted before; nor was this all; the tidings of this new thing spread around, and the peasants in some of the neighbouring parishes have come forward, and requested that their pastors would establish snch a Bible Society among them. We made arrangements with the Committee at Dorpat for having them established in all the parishes; which we hope will soon be done. The good which will result from these measures, is incalculable, not only to the Bible cause, but to the cause of humanity. You must know, that the state of the peasants in Esthonia was perhaps the worst in Europe; at least, by far the worst in Russia. How wonderful are the ways of Providence! Just while all these things are going forward, the humane Alexander is giving freedom to the peasants in Esthonia; the law is passed; the Ukase is printing, and arrangements are making for putting it into execution; but they must be raised in some degree in the scale of beings, before they can enjoy the good preparing for them; they must feel that they also have moral worth, that they are men. This effect is produced by the Bible Society, in a safe, expeditious, and powerful manner; and when we take into the account the effect which, by the blessing of God, will be produced, by the reading of the Scriptures, on the minds of these oppressed and neglected human

beings; and connect all these with the change about to take place in their political existence, we must stand still, and exclaim: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"

THE following Address from the Finnish Bible Society will be read with interest:

Baldohn, July 31, 1816.

"The elevated and Christian sentiments which His Imperial Majesty entertains, he has most solemnly declared before the whole of Europe. The Finnish Bible Society has recently had the happiness to receive the most pleasing proofs thereof, in His Majesty's Rescript of the 12th of March last, to its worthy President, Count Steinheil, in which he was pleased to declare his high satisfaction with the progress of the Society, and his gracious purpose to support it still further in its good work; and also two other Rescripts, of the 19th of the same month, granting to the Society free postage for all its letters and packages within the empire, and a loan of 30,000 rubles, free of interest, from the Finnish Militia Fund, to assist in printing a quarto edition of the Bible, to be re-paid in the space of five years, reckoned from the time that the said edition shall have left the press. Such valuable proofs on the part of His Imperial Majesty, of the most gracious favour and attention to the affairs of this Society, and such readiness to promote the cause of the Bible and of religion, will be gratefully acknowledged, not only by the Members of this Society, but also by every virtuous Finlander; and it will be contemplated with delight by the latest posterity.

"Besides the 8000 Testaments printed in the course of the preceding year, 5000 are now at press, and nearly finished. Of the former, 3000 copies have been distributed in Finland; 2000 have been ordered by the Russian Bible Society, for distribution in Ingermannland; and the Society has resolved, in the course of the current year, (1816,) to distribute 2000 copies gratis to the poor; also to supply all the prisons, poor-houses, and hospitals, within the kingdom; the remainder will be sold at a very low price.

"Paper has been provided for the Bible in 4to. with the 500*l.* so liberally presented by the British and Foreign Bible Society, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the said edition; and, His Imperial Majesty having graciously afforded such munificent assistance towards this part of the Society's plan, the Committee will immediately take measures for having it speedily accomplished.

"But, while the Committee were thus taking measures for pro-

viding a sufficient supply of Bibles and Testaments in the Finnish language, they were not unmindful of the Swedish inhabitants of Finland. They, accordingly, procured from Sweden copies of the Scriptures in that language, for the amount of the 200*l.* presented them for that purpose by the British and Foreign Bible Society; and have distributed them in those parts of Finland where Swedish is spoken. The same benevolent Society has lately presented a second donation, to the like amount, for the same purpose; which liberality, on the part of the Society in London, has encouraged the Committee to increase their efforts in promoting the distribution of the Swedish Scriptures, especially among the poor; so that 250 Bibles have been ordered to be distributed gratis in different parts of Finland.

"In order to enable the Society to furnish copies of the Holy Scriptures at as low prices as possible, and especially to distribute copies gratis to the poor, until every poor cottage in Finland shall be blessed with the saving light contained in the revealed word of God, it was resolved, at the commencement of 1815, to invite more generally the Finnish nation to take part in this good work, and to become regular members of the Society, either by subscribing 3 rubles annually, or 30 rubles once for all. With the most lively gratitude, the members of the Society have now to inform the public, that this invitation has been answered in the most liberal manner by their countrymen, so that already 12,445 rubles, 45 copeks, have thus been added to the Society's funds."

Mittau, August 7, 1816.

LAST night, we met the Committee of the Courland Bible Society. The Chancellor, Baron Medem, was in the chair. His Excellency gave a very satisfactory account of their proceedings hitherto. Of the 15,000 copies of the Lettish New Testament, which have been printed here, the Society in Riga has been able to obtain only 5000, as 10,000 were wanted for Courland. Of these, 8000 are immediately required, the half of which have already been delivered out.

It was agreed to establish a regular Depository, which will prove of vast importance in giving regularity to this part of the Society's work. In connexion with this, it was stated, that it would be necessary to have copies of the Scriptures, in various languages, in their depôt, and particularly in German, Slavonian, Polish, and Esthonian. The information, that they were to receive 300 German Bibles as a present from the British and Foreign Bible Society, excited much gratitude to their liberal benefactors. They pressed much to have a supply of small German Testaments, particularly for the schools; but we were sorry that we could promise only a scanty allowance. It

was also agreed, that a number of the French Testaments, remaining, from those presented by the British and Foreign Bible Society for the prisoners of war, should be brought into circulation in the schools.

The great demand for their own Testaments, renders it evident, that it would be necessary to make arrangements for commencing a new edition, without delay; and it was unanimously agreed, that 5000 copies should be begun as soon as paper can be procured. The zeal with which this was undertaken, afforded us much satisfaction. Perhaps you do not know that the Lettish Testament is printed on standing types, and that the types have been provided entirely at the expense of their printer, who engages to keep them standing for the Society, as long as they print their New Testament in his office. Instead of taking advantage of this circumstance, and making the Society pay dearer for the work, he prints cheaper than any other person would do from standing types provided by the Society. But Messrs. Stephenhagen and Son know the worth of the Bible themselves, and only desire that all others may have an opportunity of reading it. Had not this been the case, I should perhaps have urged you to make a new grant for stereotyping the New Testament, as the demand is so great; but this is not necessary. On inquiry, we have found, that they have funds to meet the expense of the intended edition, although they have sold their 10,000 copies at little more than one-third of what they cost the Society.

Nothing gave the Committee so much heart-felt satisfaction, as the information, that your Committee had granted 1000*l.* for stereotyping the Lettish Bible.

It was suggested, that now was the time to endeavour to excite more general attention to the object of the Bible Society. This subject was also fully discussed; and it was resolved, to commence doing something on an extended and general plan, which would leave no corner of the province unoccupied. The plan proposed, and adopted, is, to establish Branch Societies, as with you, in every town in the Government, each of which shall have for the field of its operation, not only the town in which it is established, but also the district connected therewith. In each parish or congregation, it is also agreed to establish Associations.

Pirna, August 13, 1816.

WE remained with our friends at Mittau till one day after the Meeting, and had the pleasure to meet the whole Committee at His Excellency's, Baron Medem, when we again had much conversation concerning the affairs of the Bible Society. One object particularly occupied our attention, namely, the

situation of the Letten, in that part of Lithuania belonging to Russia, in which there are whole parishes where the Lettish language is spoken, Lettish is preached, and all their books are in this language. As far as we could learn, the number of the Letten in Lithuania is about 20,000; their situation claiming particular attention, as they are in danger of being entirely neglected in the distribution of the Scriptures in their language. As these parishes are on the confines of Courland, it must be the business of the Mittau Committee to attend to them, which they are willing to do, as far as their circumstances will permit. The poverty of the people, together with other considerations, rendering it necessary to furnish them with copies of the New Testament gratis, (which the funds of the Courland Society do not at present admit of,) I would propose, that you should allow them a small sum for this purpose, say 1000 rubles; this would enable our Courland friends to distribute about 500 copies of their New Testament among their neighbours, and may be attended with the best effects in exciting attention to the Scriptures, and the Bible Society; and, perhaps, may lead to something more desirable. On Thursday morning we left Mittau for Riga.

In the evening we met the Committee; all the Members in town were present. The account of this Society was very satisfactory. They have hitherto been able, from their own funds, to meet their own expenditure; so that the 5000 rubles they received from the British and Foreign Bible Society, remain in the Bank at interest, on their account. They have, in conjunction with the Courland Society, printed 15,000 copies of the Lettish New Testament, of which they have borne one-third of the expense, as the Committee in Mittau required two-thirds of the whole edition, to satisfy the demand of those who had subscribed for them. These are, at present, binding; and the distribution is just commencing. They have shown their liberality towards the Dorpat Society, which is much poorer than they are, by a present of 300 copies of the Dorpatian Testament, for distribution among the poor in that district. They have also provided for the recruits, and the children of soldiers, speaking the Dorpatian dialect; furnished the hospitals with German and Russian copies of the Scriptures; and provided a supply of Slavonian Bibles and Testaments for the population of Riga. In short, the Society in Riga has done every thing which circumstances permitted to do, during the three years of its existence. The General Superintendent gave the Committee a luminous statement of all we had to propose for their consideration, which was most readily agreed to.

Their joy, on account of your magnificent present of 1000*l.* for the Lettish Bible, was very great. A stereotype plate which I showed them, afforded universal satisfaction. Dr. Sonntag felt so deeply interested in the stereotype edition, that he declared his readiness to undertake the correction of the press at St.

Petersburg, at his own expense. He is a man of uncommon energy and perseverance. As there is a great conflux of strangers, at all seasons of the year, in Riga, it is a most eligible station for a Bible Depository, and measures were taken for establishing one. The German Bibles, of which they were to receive 250 copies, were a most acceptable present. Here is also a great demand for German Testaments, as well as for Bibles in that language. It is evident that the Russian Bible Society must undertake an edition of both, on stereotype, as soon as possible.

A commencement has, here also, been made with Bible Associations, among the peasants.

When we urged the necessity of thus forming Bible Associations, all agreed that the plan must first be attempted on an extensive scale in the parishes, where the United Brethren had most adherents, as they were the people who had most love for the word of God, on whom the fullest dependance could be placed, and whose example would influence others.



Carmel, in the Island of Oesel, August 19, 1816.

BETWEEN Riga and Pirnau, we called on the Rev. Mr. Bergmann, who is well known on the Continent, for his interesting account of the Calmucs, having wandered two years with these people, for the purpose of gaining a perfect acquaintance with their language and manners. We found in his house a most brilliant assembly of the neighbouring gentry, who had come to spend the evening with their pastor. Although in our travelling habit, we were obliged to take part in the festivities of the evening, and had an opportunity of speaking a word for the Bible Society. We found here a most excellent library, in which are many scarce books. We discovered a grammar of the Manjur language, and another book, from which information may be obtained in regard to their written characters. These we carried with us, and promised some copies of our rare editions, in return, to enrich his library. Having torn ourselves away from our kind friends, after supper, we pursued our journey, and at midnight arrived at our station. Now we found ourselves in a part of Livonia, where the Revel-Esthonian is spoken, the Pirnau and Fellin districts. These districts had hitherto been totally neglected by the Bible Society. As the people here speak a different language from the Lettish or Dorpatian, neither the Society in Riga, nor that in Dorpat, could make any provision for them; and, belonging to a different government, they were not included in the bounds of the Revel Society. All this I foresaw in 1813, and insisted that a Bible Society ought to be formed for this district also, containing about 80,000 souls. My proposition was at that time controverted, and I yielded. Now the friends to the cause were convinced that I was in the right, and exerted themselves to the

utmost, to bring about the establishment of an independent Bible Society for this part of the government. The General Superintendent, Sonntag, wrote to the Deans of both districts on the subject, and informed them of our intention of visiting them for the purpose of forming a Bible Society. On our arrival at the station, I found a letter addressed to me, from the Rev. Mr. Berg, Dean of the Pirnau district, who resides at Halixt. Very early next morning, we took post horses, and set out to visit him. We found him prepared for us, and immediately entered on the subject of our mission. We found the Dean a warm friend to religion and the Bible Society. He had earnestly desired to see a Society established in that part of the country; but, from their poverty, and want of encouragement, hitherto in vain. He had received full power from the Rev. Mr. Richter, the Dean of Felliū, to treat with us on the subject, as it was impossible for the latter to meet us. Every thing was soon settled, a plan drawn out, and other previous arrangements made. While thus engaged, we were agreeably interrupted by the entrance of the Rev. Mr. Bergmann, and one of the noblemen, with whom we had spent the preceding evening, who had come twenty English miles to meet us again, and spend a few hours in our company. We received much interesting information concerning the state of religion in this part of the country; and were truly happy to learn, that much true piety existed among the peasants in these districts, that they were better instructed than in many other places, that they highly prized the Scriptures, and ardently desired to possess this invaluable treasure; but that the scarcity of Bibles and Testaments was truly deplorable. In proof of this, the Dean informed us, that there was money lying for some years past, which the peasants had brought to obtain the Scriptures, without being able to accomplish their object. So greatly was the want of Bibles felt by the poor people, that they had even submitted to the laborious task of copying part of the word of God, that they might have it in their houses. The Dean had met, in his own parish, with two complete manuscript copies of the Esthonian Bible, written by peasants, in a fair hand. He offered twenty-five rubles for one of them; but the peasant, though poor, could not be prevailed upon to part with it for money, but offered to exchange it for a printed copy, which the Dean could not procure for him at the time. These facts speak for themselves. It was impossible to establish a Bible Society, during our stay in this part of the country, as the leading persons live at a great distance one from another, and could not be brought together in such a hurry. The plan of Bible Associations met with the warmest approbation of our friends; and, we have every reason to hope, will soon be carried into effect. It was no easy task to get away from the good people; but, having finished our business, we tore ourselves from their embraces, and pursued our journey towards Pirnau, where we arrived early next morning. Here we waited on the clergyman, with whom we went over the same ground, and

met with the same reception. They will, with the friends in the country, make all the needful arrangements for the final establishment of the Society. In Pirnau, it was agreed, that a Bible Repository should be established. This intended Society will connect itself with the Societies in Revel and Arensburg, and take part with them in printing the Scriptures in the Reval-Esthonian dialect, and in the mean time order as many copies of the New Testament from Revel, as they need for the present, or rather as the Society can spare them. After all I have said, I need scarcely add, that they look to you for such assistance as shall enable them to commence their operations with spirit. They will do what they can themselves; but, without your assistance, this will be but little. With the formation of this Society, the whole of the ground in the East Sea Provinces will be completely occupied, so far as Auxiliary Societies are concerned. Branch Societies, and Bible Associations, will follow of course.

From St. Petersburg they write us, that the plan for an additional building to the house of the Bible Society has been presented to the Committee, and approved of. The expense will be very great; the estimate being no less than 30,000 rubles. Our worthy President exhorted the Members not to allow the expense to discourage them. "I will pray God," said he, "to send us assistance; and I am convinced he will hear me, for he loves his own cause." God has heard him.—Our most benevolent benefactor, the Emperor, has again come forward to our assistance with a present of 15,000 rubles in aid of the new buildings.

Revel, August 27, 1816.

WE had formed a very high idea of the Bible friends in the island of Oesel, and promised ourselves much pleasure from our visit to them.

On Tuesday, the Committee met at the house of the Secretary, in Arensburg. Several Noblemen and Clergymen were present, besides the Members of the Committee. They first gave us an account of what they had done since the formation of the Society. From Revel they had procured as many copies of the Scriptures, in the Esthonian language, as they could obtain, and distributed them with great effect. The copies in the German, Swedish, and Slavouian languages, which they have received from us, have also been distributed, and gladly received. The Swedish Pastor, from the island of Rungo, happened to be present, and gave a very pleasing account of his parishioners, as far as regards the Scriptures.

The Arensburg Committee have ordered, from Revel, 2,500 copies of the new edition of the Testament, of which number 500 copies are to be distributed gratis. The arrangements made for this purpose, promise to excite still more interest in behalf of the

Society. Here we had the pleasure of receiving a deputation from the Military Orphan School, to which some copies of the Slavonian Testament had previously been presented, who came to testify their gratitude to the Committee for the gift, and, in return, to present the sum of 16 rubles, being a collection from their school for the Bible Society. It was mostly in copper money. A fine boy was the bearer: as he understood German, we gave him a German Testament.

We proposed to them to establish a small Bible Depository for the island, which was agreed to. As the President, Dr. Lucy, is Director of all the schools on the islands of Oesel and of Dagen, he declared his resolution to introduce the New Testament as a school book into all the schools. We promised to send them French Testaments, gratis, for that purpose. The President of the Consistory, who was present, offered to pay the amount of the copies distributed in the French language, into the funds of the Committee; which kindness was thankfully accepted. We then informed them of your gift of 1000*l.* for stereotype plates for the Esthonian Bible; explained fully your object in making so large a grant; specified the advantages of printing with stereotypes; and, to give a proper idea of it, showed them a plate. All this excited much interest, and produced the warmest expressions of gratitude to the givers.

The subject of parochial Bible Associations was also brought forward, and met with the warmest approbation. Several clergymen present declared their willingness to make the attempt, as soon as they should receive regulations for their direction.

The island of Dagen next engaged our attention. Hitherto, it has been found impossible to do any thing for this island. It is small, consisting of three or four parishes; the peasants are represented as being very poor. It was thought, that the best plan for exciting an interest among them, would be to send a number of copies for gratuitous distribution; but, as the funds of the Arensburg Bible Society will scarcely admit of this, I take the liberty to propose, that your Committee should allow me to present them with 1000 rubles for this purpose.



Narta, August 30, 1816.

ON the 26th we met the Committee in Revel; here we found every thing in the best order; their edition of 10,000 copies of the New Testament completely finished, and partly with the binder; and a short printed address drawn up, in the Esthonian language, for circulation among the peasants, informing them that the New Testament was now to be had at a very low price, and giving them some idea of the nature of the Bible Society, and what it had done. The Committee, in our presence, resolved to send copies

for distribution to Oesel, Pirnau, and Dorpat. All the German and Swedish copies of the Scriptures, which they had received from the British and Foreign Bible Society, have been disposed of; and they calculate, that they will still need about 300 Swedish Bibles, before every Swedish family in the government be supplied with a copy. The Swedes in Esthonia are very poor, and few of them are able to pay for a Bible; so that they must be supplied gratis, for the most part. The Society look to you, their generous benefactors, for enabling them to do this. They have distributed as many Bibles and Testaments, in the Esthonian language, as they have been able to obtain. On the whole, they have been as active as their circumstances would admit of; they complain, and with reason, that so few in the province take an interest in the Bible Society. In order to excite more attention, and make the object of the Institution better known, it was resolved to distribute 500 copies, gratis, and to request the Consistory to use its influence with the clergy, to insure their being distributed to the most deserving. Arrangements were also made for forwarding a sufficient supply for sale to every parish. A depôt is to be opened in Revel for the Scriptures in various languages, of which the German Bibles you have presented to them, will form a part. They expressed much thankfulness for this gift. The 1000 German Bibles have been distributed as follows: Dorpat 150, Riga 250, Mittau 300, Pirnau 50, Revel 200. With this arrangement I hope you will be satisfied. We met again for business next day. The first object which engaged our attention, was, the stereotype edition for the whole Bible. Their gratitude and joy for the 1000*l.* were very great. I leave it to themselves to describe what they felt, when informed of this new proof of British benevolence. They approved of what we were authorized to propose to them on the part of the Committee in Arensburg. They intend, as soon as possible, to call a meeting of the most learned and experienced among the clergy, to confer on the measures which ought to be adopted, in order to accomplish their design in the most satisfactory manner. It was agreed, that this edition should in all things correspond with the last Halle edition of the German Bible, in large octavo.

We then fully discussed the plan of Branch Societies, and Bible Associations, among the peasants, which met their warmest approbation. Their worthy Vice-President, the Rev. Mr. Holtz, undertook to make the trial immediately in his parish, and expressed his most sanguine hopes that he should succeed.

We were exceedingly pleased with the spirit manifested by these excellent men. We spent only two days in Revel; but things were so contrived, that we were constantly in the company of the Committee, and other friends of the Society, and thus had an opportunity of fully conversing with them concerning every thing connected with the success of the good cause.

We hope our visit to Revel, will, by the blessing of Divine

Providence, be attended with much good. In the mean time, it has strengthened the hands of our friends there not a little.

On the 28th, in the morning, we left Revel, and arrived at Narva late last night. Here His Excellency, Mr. Papoff, received a letter from Prince Galitzin, inclosing the Order of St. Vladimir of the Third Class, which had been presented to him by His Imperial Majesty, for his very great exertions in the cause of the Bible Society.

This is another proof of the deep interest His Majesty takes in the cause, and his attention to every thing which concerns the progress of its affairs throughout his dominions. Instances of this solicitude are almost daily occurring. One day, our President happened to mention, that the Russian peasants had sent in their contributions to the Society of their own accord. His Majesty was exceedingly pleased with the information, and said, "I am convinced, this is of God: our peasants have a great aversion to every thing that is new; and God only could have put it into their hearts to contribute to the Bible Society, which to them is entirely new." When the Prince spoke to him about the affairs of the Bible Society in Warsaw, His Majesty pointed out the persons to whom he should write on the subject, and promised, when in Warsaw, to speak to the leading people himself.



St. Petersburg, September 20, 1816.

You will, no doubt, wonder why I have deferred so long writing, after my arrival in this place. I found so much to do, that I have scarcely had time to put pen to paper. Besides all my other engagements, the repairing of the house which the Emperor has presented to the Society, was waiting for me, as they would do nothing till they knew how I wished to have it altered, so as to suit for our Depository and also for the printing-office. This occupies a part of my time every day for the present. It is a great satisfaction that the work proceeds rapidly. The new house will be covered in, this autumn, and the old house, I hope, completely repaired. Some of our editions were also standing still; now they are all proceeding rapidly, except the Moldavian Testament, for which we have no corrector. The demands for copies of the Scriptures are enormous; 10,000 Slavonian Bibles are ordered; so that the 5000, now printing, will all go off as fast as they can be bound. Only 200 copies of our Armenian Testament are remaining, and even these have all been ordered. The German edition of the New Testament is exhausted, and thousands more are wanted. We know not how to procure a sufficient supply. We are speaking of stereotyping the Protestant version, and printing 5000 copies of the Catholic Ratisbon version, with moveable types. The German Bibles go off as fast as we can get them

bound. The demands for the Polish and Slavonian Testaments are also very great; the people are thirsting for the living waters, but we cannot supply them in sufficient quantity. We have much pleasing information concerning the eagerness of the Persians to obtain the New Testament in their own language; also of the Calmucs. In Orenburg, the Missionaries can scarcely walk the streets, without being surrounded by the Calmucs, inquiring if the *new Books* are not arrived. In that quarter they are all Christians by name; but observe all their heathenish practices. The Burjats have again sent us more than 2000 rubles, to pay for translating and printing the New Testament in their language. We are taking measures for the purpose; but many difficulties remain to be overcome.

We have the pleasing information from Mittau, that the first effect of our visit there, was, that nearly 4000 copies of their Testament had been issued from their Depository in about three weeks.

On the whole, we have much reason to bless God for the success he granted us on our late tour to the Societies in the Eastern Provinces. The beneficial consequences of it will become more and more evident every day.



St. Petersburg, October 28, 1816.

I HASTEN to tell you some good news. For some time past, things have worn a favourable aspect in regard to the cause of the Bible Society in Cronstadt. A considerable sum of money had been collected; and copies of the Scriptures were demanded with an eagerness which at once gratified and astonished us, as we had not expected it. Persons began to show themselves friendly, who, from their station, had it in their power to promote the cause. It was therefore proposed, that they should attempt to establish an Auxiliary Bible Society for Cronstadt. The proposition was well received, and arrangements were made for carrying it into execution. Every thing being prepared, His Excellency Mr. Papoff and myself went down on Monday last, to assist on this interesting occasion. We called on some of the leading people, and found, in general, the best spirit existing among them. The Meeting was appointed for yesterday morning at 10 o'clock, when a most numerous and respectable assembly attended in the house of the Nobles. His Excellency, Vice-Admiral Korobka, opened the Meeting, with a very appropriate speech, on the object of the Bible Society; and Mr. Papoff having read the rules, the Vice-Admiral Korobka was then unanimously chosen Chairman, or Vice-President of the Society; the Dean of the Russian Cathedral Church, the Rev. Mr. Marshall, the Rev. the Abbé de Maison; the Rev. Mr. Toppelius, of the German Lutheran

Church; the Counsellor of State, Dr. Franck; Jolin Becker, Esq. English Vice-Consul; Colonel Sepankevitz, Treasurer of the Marine; Captain Katamanoff; the Director of the Customs, Mr. Lindenbaum; Lieut. Colouel Stepavoy; Lieut. Colonel Nordsteyn; the Danish Vice-Consul, and Mr. Haselmann, Directors: J. Berlovsky, Esq. Treasurer; and Mr. Lavin, Secretary.

The Secretary then made a short and judicious speech; after which, His Excellency Mr. Papoff delivered an excellent address, in which the nature and success of the Bible Society were pointed out, and the importance of the Cronstadt Branch stated. This address produced a wonderful effect. Subscription papers were then presented to the Meeting; and it delighted us to behold with what eagerness the assembly pressed forward to subscribe: all were fired with zeal for the good cause. One thing that distinguished this Meeting from all others ever yet assembled on such an occasion, was, that more than two-thirds were *naval officers*. You need not be told how much such gentlemen have it in their power to influence their inferiors on board of ship, to promote the distribution of the Scriptures in the different countries which they visit.

It is resolved to form a depôt in Cronstadt, for supplying persons of all nations.



St. Petersburg, December 27, 1816.

A SEVERE illness has hitherto prevented me from communicating what passed at our Meeting of the Committee about five weeks ago. Many important letters were read. On that occasion, we had, among others, some very interesting letters from the South. A Bishop in Anatolia has become a subscriber to the Bible Society, and promises to assist in the work, to the utmost of his power. He thanks God for the Bible Society; for, "the light among us," he observes, "is darkness;" and he views the Bible Society as the appointed means for dispelling it. He explains the nature and design of the Society to all his flock. A French Consul in Anatolia has taken on himself to distribute copies of the New Testament in Greek and Armenian. He has sent copies into the interior, and has invited the Greek Bishop to co-operate, which the latter promised to do. He says, the Armenians get copies from Venice; but the price of our New Testament is so little, that they cannot comprehend how it is possible to furnish it at the money, and, on this account, it has the preference. The thirst for the word of God is great; but there are many of the Greeks and Armenians, who no longer understand their own languages, and, therefore, he proposes printing in Turkish, but with Greek and Armenian letters.

A very pleasing circumstance was brought before the Com-

mittee, from Moscow. A number of noblemen's children had in private formed a Bible Association, having heard of such in England. When they had collected 2000 rubles, they sent this to the Committee. Some time after, they drew up statutes, and requested to be allowed to continue their exertions, which was agreed to. A short letter was read from the Russian Commander in Chief in France, returning thanks for the copies of the Scriptures sent to the army. "This is, indeed," says he, "to stretch the hand of brotherhood over many lands, in order to present the Bible to your brethren in arms."

As all our Armenian Testaments are exhausted, a new edition of 3000 copies was resolved on in 12mo.

But the Meeting of the Committee the day before yesterday, was one of the most important and interesting which has been held since the formation of the Society. A copy of the Slavonian Bible in stereotypes, was presented to the Committee, and occasioned universal joy. It forms a most handsome large 8vo. volume, and can be sold at 5s. strongly bound, leaving a profit sufficient to defray the expenses of Depository, packing, &c.

The Committee now saw themselves in a situation to redeem the pledge they had given to the public, and to satisfy the demands that are daily making on them for thousands of copies. It was announced, that the second edition of 5000 copies was advancing rapidly, and that one-third was already printed off.

The 4to. Bible on stereotypes is begun; the half of the plates for the 12mo. Testament, cast; the Greek Testament on stereotypes about to be printed.

Our 5000 copies of the Polish Testament being all demanded, it was agreed to prepare stereotypes for this edition, as there is a prospect of the demand being very great for them in the Russian Polish provinces, which fall within the boundaries of our Society.

It was resolved to prepare stereotypes for the Polish Bible, as soon as the New Testament was completed, and to communicate both resolutions to the Polish Society, and ask them to take part in the work.

St. Petersburg, December 29, 1816.

I NEED not inform you what impression the information of your late grants* made upon the minds of all the Members of the Committee here. Your unwearied liberality fills them with

* Viz. 200*l.* for Pirnan and Felin; 1000 rubles for the Society in Mittau; 1000 rubles for Arensburg; 300 Swedish Bibles for the Society in Revel; 200*l.* for the Moldavian Bible; and 200*l.* for the Bulgarian Testament.

astonishment, and causes them to send up many prayers to the God of all grace for the prosperity of your Society, and many thanksgivings on your account.

You may form some idea of the exertions of the Society here, when I inform you, that, for the last three months, their expenditure has exceeded 40,000 rubles per month. Our income for the first two months did not amount to more than 15 or 16,000 monthly, but the last month it was somewhat more than 42,000.

This increase was chiefly owing to our having received from our good friend, the Archbishop Job, more than 13,000 rubles, which I think makes the sum he has collected for us considerably more than 60,000; a sum which I do not suppose any *individual* has yet collected for the Bible Society.

Nearly 10,000 rubles had been sent in from the newly formed Society at Moghilef, which may be chiefly ascribed to the liberality and zeal of the heroes of Russia. Immediately after this information had been communicated in regard to the Russian army, our Vice-President from Cronstadt, who was present for the first time, like another Lord Gambier, gave us a pleasing account of the progress of the cause in the Russian Marine. The desire manifested by both officers and men for the Scriptures, exceeds all description: nor are the exertions of this active Society confined to Cronstadt; its influence already extends to several other naval stations; and I hope soon to be able to inform you of some Branch Societies being established in connexion with it. May we indulge the pleasing hopes, that, by these means, the armies and fleets of Europe, instead of being the scourge of mankind, shall be brought to range themselves under the standard of Him who is faithful and true, who in righteousness doth judge, and make war; and, following Him, go forth, for the punishment of vice, and the promotion of peace on earth, and good-will towards men. Another pleasing feature of our last Committee, was, that we received letters from several of the other national Bible Societies, and particularly one from the Swedish Bible Society, which was heard with much interest.

The Society in Stockholm offered to send copies of the Scriptures to the Society here, to supply their countrymen who might visit this place, or Cronstadt, or be otherwise resident in Russia; and offered to supply Russians, who might visit Sweden, with the word of life, if the Society here would furnish them with copies. The challenge was accepted with joy.

My health is still very precarious. The arrival of our dear Henderson has almost been as life from the dead to me; and I shall take the advantage of his being here, to visit Sweden, and when in Sweden, to set my feet in the packet, and visit you once more in London. I have much on which I wish to consult with my friends personally. I hope my long journey, by way of Tornea, and the sea voyage, will, by the divine blessing, be the means of restoring me to health.

Stockholm, February 21, 1817.

I SHALL give you some account of my journey, as far as relates to the Bible Society. Previously to my leaving St. Petersburg, I had corresponded with the Society in Abo, about the establishment of Branch Societies in different parts of Finland: but they thought that the public mind was not ripe for this part of the plan, and wished it might be deferred some time; requesting me, however, to collect all the information I could, in order that, on my return through Abo next summer, we might be able to discuss the matter, and make such arrangements as might then appear needful. As this Society has done so well, and succeeded in exciting such a general interest throughout the whole country, I did not wish to force the matter on them; convinced, that, as it had once been brought before them, they would soon of themselves adopt the plan.

The Committee in St. Petersburg furnished us with as many Finnish and Swedish New Testaments as I could take with me in my sledge. Having left St. Petersburg on the 29th of January, in the evening, we arrived next morning at Wiborg. Here I spent a day in visiting my friends. I proposed to the Governor and the Dean the plan of establishing a Branch Society for the province, which met their most hearty approbation; and they both promised to see it carried into execution, as soon as any thing was resolved, on the subject, in Abo. In this government they have already done much for the Bible Society, and I have no doubt will in future do much more. From Wiborg we proceeded directly north over the frozen lakes to Karepeo, where we arrived late on Saturday evening, the 1st of February. Here we rested the first day of the week. I visited some good people in this place, and, among others, met with a peasant, a most interesting man. He had sold his farm to his brother, on such conditions as make provision for his devoting himself wholly to the propagation of the Gospel among his countrymen. He travels far and near for this purpose; and as soon as he has procured copies of the Scriptures, he intends loading his little cart with them, in order to carry them to all the markets in the province. As this is the most remote and the darkest province of Finland, the good peasant has already proved extremely useful, and promises to be much more so in future.

I waited on the Governor, who received me in a most friendly manner; and had much conversation with him about the Bible Society. He was convinced of the advantage which would arise from the establishment of a Branch Society for the province, and professed his willingness to do every thing in his power to support it. At present, they are without a Dean, so that nothing can be done immediately. His Excellency also promised to attend to the Christians of the Greek profession in his government, who

are all very destitute. The next place I came to, was, Ulleåberg. The Dean, to whom I had a letter, was absent; but I met with some other good people, who are deeply interested in the cause, and have done what they could to promote the circulation of the Scriptures in this place. They gave me reason to hope, that a Society might be established, if properly encouraged. It is a great disadvantage that all the places along the coast of this gulph have little or no connexion with Aho, and that the copies sent to them must be sent by way of Stockholm. I must make such arrangements, that this may take place without difficulty, and free of all expenses, except freight.

At Remi I called on my old friend the Dean, who labours much for the spiritual good of his flock. He begged earnestly to have 2 or 300 Finnish Testaments, for the Laplanders under his charge, who read their own language only. I promised to endeavour to procure him the means of obtaining them, which is only about 20*l*. I hope you will attend to this. In Tornea I visited the clergyman, an elderly man; and took the liberty of pressing upon him the importance of his co-operation. On my way through Finland, I enjoyed much pleasure in distributing the Finnish New Testaments, which I had brought with me. I wish you could have witnessed the joy with which they were received. In some instances, when I felt myself obliged to refuse them, the inhabitants literally forced them from me. Those who had not received them, wept bitterly; their tears were arguments which I could not withstand; they softened my heart, and I was obliged to grant their request. They would have given me any price for the books; but I told them, that, as I had received freely, so I must give freely. I had a few remaining when I arrived in Tornea, which I packed up, and sent with a letter to an old friend, who is Dean of a district, extending as far north as the Arctic Circle, requesting him to distribute them to such as he knew were hungering for the word of life. It was with pleasure I learned, that pure religion is on the increase among the Finnish peasants. Around the north end of the Gulph of Bothnia there is a fire kindled, which promises to spread light and heat over these frozen regions. On the whole, I am much pleased with my journey through the wilds of Finland. The knowledge I have obtained will enable me to suggest such plans as may lead to the completion of our wishes, for the spiritual benefit of this interesting people.

I need not inform you with what pleasure I turned my face towards the south. We had left the sun far behind us. The day, instead of lengthening, had shortened rapidly, as we approached these cold regions of the north. In going towards the south, I knew I was to pass through tracks over which the Spirit of the Lord has, in the last few years, been poured out in such abundance, that the desert has been made to rejoice, and blossom as the rose, and the wilderness has become a fruitful field. This work began in the year 1803, at which time Mr. Henderson and I

first visited these places. It took its commencement in the parish of Lulow, and has gradually extended through a track of 200 or 300 English miles in length. The word of the Lord has grown and multiplied exceedingly. At first, there was much strange fire mingled with the incense from the altar; but the reading of the Scriptures, and the writings of Luther, of which the awakened are fond, has corrected, in a great measure, their first irregularities; and now they make their light so to shine before others, that they are constrained to glorify their Father who is in heaven. I saw many of these good people, and had much interesting conversation with them. At one station we met a young man, whose mind was particularly enlightened. I happened to give two little girls a Swedish New Testament, which led him to plead hard, that I would allow him to pay me for one, which I refused, alledging, that I had none for sale, and that he could get a Bible for money, if he chose to pay for it. This, he said, was next to impossible; Bibles being so dear, that it was needful to sell a cow, to get money to pay for it. I found every where an ardent desire after the word of God; but was sorry to learn, that, except in two or three instances, no Bible had been sent so far north, nor was it likely that any number would be sent, until a Bible Society was formed for the diocese. I called on as many of the clergy as circumstances would admit, and had much important conversation with them on religion, and the circulation of the Scriptures. I was particularly pleased with the Dean of Bugdeå, a pious, active man, zealous for the cause of God upon earth. The Bible Association plan met his hearty approbation, and he promised to have it introduced into his diocese as soon as possible. In Hernösand, I waited on the Bishop. They were just employed in forming a Bible Society; so that my visit was most welcome. I need not waste time in describing the ground I went over: I would rather tell you of the zeal and activity of this good man. His diocese is very large. The population is thin, but they are a superior race. He has, also, under his charge, all the Laplanders in the kingdom, and many thousand Finns. With the Laplanders he is taking great pains, especially with the schools. In travelling through his diocese, I had observed that those who had Bibles, set so high a value on them, that they kept them constantly locked up, and seldom read them themselves, and never allowed their children or servants to touch them. This led me to suggest the propriety of putting the New Testament into the hands of all youths, to be read by them when around the fire-side. The idea pleased the Bishop, and he immediately resolved to have it executed. His Lordship could not conceal from me the great poverty of his people, and the embarrassment in which this infant Society would find itself for want of funds. He said, their great dependence was on their London friends, who, he hoped, would think on their poor friends in the North, and not leave them to famish for the bread of life. I promised to lay their case be-

fore you. I think that 200*l.* would set them on their feet, and then there would be some prospect of their going on alone.

In Upsala I waited on the venerable Archbishop of Sweden, who received me with open arms. He called a Meeting of the Committee, in order to converse with me. They manifested much zeal in the cause; and seemed determined not to remain behind their brethren in promoting its success. His Lordship is determined to have Associations in every parish of his diocese, and is now labouring hard to redeem the time they have lost. They have already collected more than 2000 rix dollars, and expect still more.

The spirit in this place is excellent, and promises great things. I was much pleased with my visit, and so, I believe, were they; not on my account, but on the account of those who sent me. They could not say enough of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and gave me a thousand charges to present their respects to the Committee.

London, March 24, 1817.

My stay in Stockholm was only eight days; but, during that time, I had an opportunity of making myself perfectly acquainted with every thing connected with the affairs of the Swedish Bible Society, and seeing all the leading men, and conversing with them. What I had witnessed in the northern provinces, had raised in me very high expectations as to Stockholm, and I was not disappointed. The zeal and activity of the friends there, exceed every thing of which I had formed any idea. The zeal of their worthy President, Count Rosenblad, not only continues, but grows exceedingly. His Excellency has long laboured to communicate to others that holy fire which burns in his own breast, and he has succeeded to a degree which astonishes every intelligent observer; and this success, instead of exhausting, has fanned, the sacred flame within him. However much the duties of his office, as one of the first Ministers of State, press upon him, the affairs of the Bible Society are not treated by him as a secondary object. He lives for the cause. On my first interview, I was going to express the obligations we were under to him for the active part he had taken in the work; but he interrupted me, saying, "It is I who am under obligations to the friends of the Bible Society, who called me to fill an office which has proved so beneficial to my own best interests;" and with holy joy and gratitude beaming in his countenance, proceeded to offer up thanksgivings to Him who had counted him worthy, putting him into the ministry. The account I was enabled to give him, and the other friends, of the progress of the good

cause in Russia, and the surrounding countries, proved highly interesting and encouraging to them. It is delightful to observe how the Bible Society is gradually wearing off the asperities which subsist between rival nations. It is neutral ground, on which they can meet as brethren, and consider each other as fellow-labourers in a work which is dear to their hearts, and by which peace and good will are insensibly generated between them. The day I dined at the Count's, I met with several distinguished personages, who, although not as yet actively engaged in the cause, are friendly towards it. Among others, I had much conversation with the Right Reverend the Bishop of Linköping, who promised me that a Bible Society should be established for his diocese, in the course of the ensuing summer, and urged my paying them a visit, on returning from England, which I gave him reason to hope I would do.

On the evening of the 4th of March, I met the Committee of the Swedish Bible Society. A more numerous or brilliant Committee Meeting I have never witnessed. It is easy to conceive my feelings, when I compared it with the first meeting of a few humble individuals, in an upper chamber, exactly nine years ago, which laid the foundation of all that is now doing in Sweden. Three of these individuals, besides myself, were present on this occasion, and rejoiced with me in contemplating what the Lord, who despised not our day of small things, hath wrought. Besides many other persons of distinction, His Excellency Baron Anker, Minister of State for Norway, was present, and seemed deeply interested in the cause. He united with the other friends, in urging the absolute necessity of my visiting Norway; but, for the reasons mentioned in my last, I declined it; but promised that Mr. Henderson should, as soon as I returned to Russia. The Baron requested that he would wait upon him in passing through Stockholm, that he might have an opportunity of furnishing him with letters of recommendation to the leading men in Norway.

The President opened the business of the Meeting, by expressing the obligations the Swedish Bible Society was under to the British and Foreign Bible Society, for all the assistance granted them in various ways, and particularly for the liberal manner in which their British friends have supplied their funds. His Excellency charged me, in the name of the Committee, and of the whole Swedish nation, to express their grateful acknowledgments to the President and Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and to assure them of their active co-operation in promoting the glorious work of disseminating the word of life throughout the world. The President was then so condescending as to give some account of the progress the Swedish Bible Society had made since I last visited them, their present state, and their future prospects, and which he requested I would communicate to their friends in England.

During the year 1816, the Society printed 13,000 whole Bibles, and 8000 New Testaments; making in all 21,000 copies of the sacred volume: the whole number of Bibles printed since 1810,

being 31,000, and of New Testaments, 40,000 : total, since the commencement of the Society, 71,000 copies. This number, however, instead of satisfying the wants of the inhabitants, has, by exciting a greater desire after the words of eternal life, only tended to bring these wants to view. The Society has thereby been called upon to make still greater exertions ; and, in order to meet the increasing demands from every quarter, has ordered, for the present year, 4000 reams of paper, which will enable the Committee to print 20,000 Bibles, and about 10,000 Testaments. During the year 1816, copies of the Scriptures were sold, to the amount of 18,000 Rix Dollars, Banco, and distributed, gratis, to the amount of 575 Rix Dollars, Banco. The amount of subscriptions was 3206 Rix Dollars, Banco ; their expenditure, 22,616 Rix Dollars ; and they had remaining in the hands of the Treasurer, or in the Bank at interest, at the commencement of this year, 11,519 Rix Dollars, Banco, which will be required for the payment of paper, printing, &c. in the course of the current year. The Committee have, besides, in the course of the past year, sent 300 copies of the Swedish New Testament to the poor Finlanders settled on the frontiers of Sweden towards Norway, who were entirely destitute of the word of God.

A letter was now read from the President of the British and Foreign Bible Society, addressed to Count Rosenblad, which produced a great effect on the minds of all present ; also a letter from Dr. Steinkopff, which was listened to with much interest, and which announced the grant of 250*l.* sterling, to the Swedish Bible Society, of which 100*l.* for the Bible Society in Wexio, when formed, and 150*l.* for general purposes. For both letters, as well as for the grant, the President requested me, in the name of the Society, to present their most unfeigned gratitude to his Lordship, the President, and to the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

After reading these letters, the President proceeded to give a concise account of the progress of the cause in the provinces. Of all the Auxiliary Societies yet formed in Sweden, that of Lund stands first. The activity of his Lordship, Bishop Faxe, aided by the Professors and Clergy, stands almost unparalleled in the history of Bible Societies. The eminence this Society has attained, is not a little owing to the impulse given to it by the presence of my friend Mr. Henderson, about the time it was forming. He urged the plan of Bible Associations in every parish, the adoption of which has been attended with such amazing effects. During the year 1816, they distributed nearly 6000 Bibles and 2000 Testaments ; and require for the present year 8000 Bibles, and a proportionate number of Testaments. The 300*l.* presented to this Society, have, of course, been turned to the best account. The state of the Bible Society for the province of Nerike was also brought forward, whose Committee meets in Askerstund, a small town at the north extremity of the Lake Vetern. This Society owes its origin to the zeal and libe-

rality of a young nobleman, Chamberlain Stench, now its President, who gave 500 Rix Dollars, Banco, to its funds, besides 100 Bibles and 500 Testaments, to enable the Committee to commence its operations. Its success has answered the most sanguine expectations of the worthy founder; and he now enjoys the satisfaction of seeing the names of 400 Members on the lists, who are all influenced by the best spirit. The field of their operation is extensive and important. The Committee in Stockholm has presented them with 100 Bibles and 300 Testaments; and I promised their President, who was present at the Meeting, to recommend this infant Society to the attention of the Committee in London.

The formation of a Bible Society for the diocese of Skara was announced, and the constitution presented to the Committee; on which it was proposed, and unanimously determined, that the Parent Society should make them a grant of Bibles and Testaments, to commence their operations, and I was requested to pay them a visit on my way to Gothenburg, which I consented to do.

A gentleman then informed the Committee, that he had just received a letter, containing the important information, that a Society had been established in Carlstad, for the government and diocese of Vermland, with the Bishop and Governor at its head. This district contains about 140,000 souls, the greater part of whom are connected with the mines, and are very poor. Some of the parishes are very extensive; one of them contains about 20,000 souls. In some places it is very thinly inhabited; there being not less than six or seven English miles from house to house, and more than 120 miles from any town. A very great want of the Scriptures exists in this quarter, with an ardent desire to obtain them; but the poverty of the people is so great, that, unless they receive foreign aid, they must continue destitute for years to come. This is a case which particularly deserves the attention of your Committee. The inhabitants of this province have already experienced the liberality of their English friends in supplying their temporal wants; their eyes are turned to the same quarter for a supply of their spiritual necessities, and they rest confident that they will not be disappointed.

His Excellency now stated to the Meeting, that, in consequence of the extended nature of the Society's concerns, the inconvenience experienced in removing their Depository from place to place, and in the transacting of business generally, it would be necessary for the Society to have a house of its own, which he hoped they might be able to obtain on terms which would not materially affect the funds of the Institution. The proposition was agreed to, and a Sub-Committee appointed to look out for suitable premises.

In consequence of the increasing demand for their Bible on standing types, it was suggested, that it would be improper any longer to print the New Testament apart, as it would wear out

the types for the same, much sooner than those for the Old Testament, and that, of course, it became necessary to take measures for procuring standing types or stereotype for the New Testament, on a larger type, and of a more convenient size than the present one in large octavo. This proposition was approved of; and it was resolved to engage in the work as soon as their funds, and other circumstances, would admit of their doing so.

His Excellency then stated, that the long felt necessity of having an edition of the Swedish Bible in quarto, with marginal references, and on a large clear type, for the benefit of people in advanced life, and for the use of the churches, now pressed so hard on the Committee, that they could defer its execution no longer. On this subject there was only one opinion in the Committee. All felt its necessity and importance. But the expenses of this undertaking almost made them to shrink from it. It would require more than 20,000 Rix Dollars for paper and printing alone; a sum greater than the whole amount of their present funds. Some assistance is to be expected from the different Auxiliary Societies; but their chief dependence is on foreign aid, and, with the utmost delicacy, they gave me to understand, that they looked for help to that Society to which they owed their existence, and to whose liberality their success was chiefly owing. I said, all I could do, was to lay the matter before the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, who, I had no doubt, would give it the attention its importance required.

The business being ended, the Committee separated. I think I was never present at a meeting which gave me more real satisfaction. All seemed to feel that they were deliberating about matters connected with the temporal and eternal welfare of their fellow-subjects. Taking an affectionate farewell of them, and my other friends in Stockholm, I set off for Westeras, and, travelling all night, arrived there about three in the afternoon of the next day. I had scarcely arrived at the inn, when the worthy Secretary of the Society waited on me, and then went to call a Meeting of the Committee of the Bible Society, and, before I was dressed, returned to carry me to the house of their President, in which they were assembled. I expected only a few members, but found, to my astonishment, a numerous Meeting: and among other persons of distinction, his Lordship, Bishop Murray, and his Excellency, the Governor of the Province.

The communications of our much lamented friend, Dr. Brunnmark, have already made you acquainted with the character of the men who compose this Committee, and their zeal and activity in the cause. Suffice it therefore to say, that I found them, on this occasion, vastly improved. Their friend, whom they so highly respected, from whose counsel and activity they expected so much, on whom their human hopes of success depended, had been taken up from them; but a double portion of his spirit rests upon them, and they feel themselves under the most solemn obligations to do all that was in his heart for the province

which gave him birth. This Society has already distributed between 4 and 5000 copies of the Scriptures, a great part of which have been disposed of gratis. Their annual income, owing to the very great poverty of the people, does not amount to one-third of the price of the copies they have given away to the poor without money. An inquiry has been instituted into the want of the Scriptures in every parish of the diocese; and, although the returns had not all come in, yet from those which had been sent, it appeared, that it would far exceed what they had previously supposed. In one of the smaller parishes, 400 families were found without a Bible; and it was feared, that no fewer than 20,000 families would be found in the same situation, within the diocese. When it is remembered, that most of these are in such circumstances, that they cannot even pay for a Testament, we shall see how much work this Society has to do, and what funds will be required in order to enable them to supply the demands made upon them. These wants are particularly felt in the province of Dalecarlia, where the inhabitants are, this season, reduced to the awful necessity of grinding down straw and the bark of trees, to supply the bread which perishes; how lamentable that they should be also destitute of means of obtaining the bread which came down from Heaven, and for which they are hungering! I warmly recommended to them the formation of Bible Associations in every parish, as the only plan by which the demand of the population could be effectually supplied. Their gratitude to the British and Foreign Bible Society was expressed in the warmest manner, and I was charged to convey their thanks to the Committee. After spending some pleasant hours in the company of these good people, I again set myself in my carriage, and departed for Skara.

On the way, I called on some excellent men, who are active friends to the cause, and from whom I obtained much intelligence as to its success in their respective neighbourhoods. I arrived in Skara, late on Friday evening, and, next morning early, waited on the Rev. Dr. Knös, a truly pious, active, and amiable man. I was happy to find, that a Meeting of the Committee was appointed for eleven o'clock. Here I met the venerable Bishop of this diocese, and several other most excellent men. It was their first Meeting of Committee since the formation of the Society. The manner in which they should proceed in their future operations, was fully discussed. They needed much information, which I endeavoured to give them, as far as was in my power. The spirit they manifested, was such as inspired enlarged expectations as to their future success. Skara is one of the most populous provinces in Sweden; they are poor, but religious; many of them are destitute of the Bible, but ardently desire to possess it. They have resolved to institute Bible Associations in every parish; one has already been established, and made considerable progress. Dr. Brunnmark, a little before his death, had encouraged them to establish a Society in Skara, promising to use his influence with

the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society to procure for them some assistance. I engaged to supply, in this respect, the place of my deceased friend, and also to endeavour to procure for them a set of versions, which may be extremely useful here, as this is a seat of considerable learning.

Leaving Skara, I arrived in Gothenburg, where I spent the Lord's Day in the company of my religious friends, and, on the day following, saw the active Members of both Bible Societies in this place. I was quite delighted by my interview with the venerable Bishop, who is now entering on his 80th year. He is becoming very weak; but his zeal for the Bible Society grows exceedingly. It is the comfort of his old age; and, on reviewing what it has already accomplished, and anticipating its future success, he exclaimed, "Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

In the afternoon, I met the Committee of the Bible Association, which was originally formed by the children of a charity school, but is now supported by many hundreds in the lower walks of life. It was an interesting meeting, and rendered more so by being partly composed of the boys who were the original founders of this Association. This Committee particularly charges itself with the distribution of the Scriptures to the poor inhabitants of the town of Gothenburg and its neighbourhood, which is a great assistance to the Parent Society. The most pleasing effects have followed its exertions, and the Members of it are much encouraged, by observing a growing interest in their favour. It was proposed to extend their services to the seamen of different countries, who visit their port; and they begged me to recommend them to the attention of the British and Foreign Bible Society, for a small supply of Bibles and Testaments in various languages. They had, with their own money, procured a number of Finnish Testaments from Abo, to relieve the wants of some of the military of that nation, who are stationed in their neighbourhood, and which had been received with much thankfulness. I then proceeded to the house of his Lordship, the Bishop, where I found the Committee of the Gothenburg Bible Society assembled. A letter from Lord Teignmouth to the Bishop was read, and listened to with peculiar pleasure. Indeed I never felt more convinced of the necessity and great importance of such friendly communications from the Parent Society to the Societies in foreign parts. They could not find terms in which to express their obligations to the President, and to all the Members of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The Committee in Gothenburg have supplied all the prisons, work-houses, houses of charity, and hospitals, within their district, with copies of the sacred volume. Poor children, at their confirmation, have been presented with the New Testament; and many hundreds of the poor have received copies of the Scriptures, gratis. Indeed, all their funds have been devoted to the supplying of the poor. On this account, although their annual subscriptions are consider-

able, yet they are far from being adequate to their necessities. The requisitions for the poor for the year 1817, amount to 6500 copies; and they have resolved to distribute, gratis, 2000 Bibles, and 1100 Testaments. This will about exhaust their present funds; but they are confident that Divine Providence will not permit the good work to be interrupted for want of means to carry it forward. They requested to be favoured with the publications of your Society.

At the breaking up of the Meeting, a most interesting scene took place. The venerable Bishop, taking his son, (the excellent Secretary of the Society,) by the hand, and addressing himself to me, said, " You see, Sir, that I am an old man about to drop into the grave. I am no longer able to take an active part in this good work; but, thanks be to God, who hath given me this son, and who hath put it into his heart to engage with his whole soul in the cause; so that he not only discharges his own duty as Secretary, with a zeal and ability which do him honour, but the duties of his aged father as President. This comforts me, in the view of my departure from this lower world, that I can commit the cause with confidence into his hands. May the Lord bless him, and be his exceeding great reward!" My heart was too full to allow utterance to my feelings; I could only unite with this aged Prelate in offering up thanksgivings to the Most High, for the support and comfort he enjoys in his declining years, and in praying for a blessing on the excellent Secretary.

Having mentioned at the Meeting, the resolution of the Committee of the Swedish Bible Society, to print an edition of the Bible in 4to., which afforded much satisfaction, it was hinted that a Printer in Gothenburg had been making preparations for the same purpose, and hoped to be able to sell his 4to. Bible at about 5 rix dollars, banco, in sheets. I said, that it would be necessary to converse with him on the subject, as it might be the means of ruining him if he engaged in this undertaking, while the Society had resolved to publish such an edition at their own expense. They requested I would go to him immediately, which I did; and, after fully talking over the subject, and convincing him that he could not undertake the work, on his own account, without great loss, I proposed that he should give up all the paper he had prepared for his intended edition, to the Society, and print the work for them at a reasonable price. With this he was content; but asked eight days to consider of it. I told him, that I could allow him only as many hours, and that he must have his estimate ready early next morning. In the morning, he came to me, and proposed very reasonable terms; in order to simplify the matter for the Society, I agreed with him, that he should furnish paper and every thing, at his own expense, and deliver the edition of 6500 copies, for the low price of about 4s. 6d. per copy, in sheets. He is to receive only 2000 rix dollars in advance, for the purchase of types, and the remainder when the work is finished. This, besides being about

one-fourth cheaper than they could have done it in Stockholm, saves nearly all their funds for the other purposes of the Society, and will supersede the necessity of any grant being made by their friends in England, to enable them to carry on this work. Before I had finished my negotiations with the Printer, the Captain came to give notice that the vessel was about to sail. It was painful to be thus hurried away from my dear friends, without having the opportunity to bid them farewell; but the summons was not to be resisted. I went on board, and in seven days had the happiness of setting my feet once more on British ground, after a journey of 2500 English miles, performed in the space of six weeks. I felt thankful to Divine Providence for the merciful preservation I had experienced on the long journey; but especially for what I had witnessed of the progress of his cause in the countries through which I had passed. From St. Petersburg to Tornea, and from Tornea to Gothenburg, I had been travelling on *Bible Society ground*. From Tornea to Gothenburg, and from the Gulph of Bothnia to the mountains of Norway, Bible Societies are formed for every diocese in Sweden. There remain only four dioceses to be organized; and it is expected, if a little encouragement is held out to them, that, before the end of this year, we shall be able to add them also to the number of Societies in Sweden. Bible Associations are forming in different parts of the kingdom, and we may soon expect to hear of them in almost every parish. It is pleasing to be able to state, that the good effects intended to be produced by Bible Societies, in reforming the morals of the people, and in begetting and confirming religious habits, are most visible in many parts of this country. Indeed, I doubt, if so much real good has been done in any country by the institution of Bible Societies, as in Sweden. The good that has been produced there, is more than a reward for all that has been done to promote the cause of truth among them; and affords much encouragement to us all, not to be weary in well doing, confident that in due time we shall reap, if we faint not.

JOHN PATERSON.

P.S. I should have mentioned, that in Westeras I saw the widow and children of our esteemed friend Dr. Brunnmark. They are well, and, through the liberality of their British friends, in comfortable circumstances. Mrs. Brunnmark could not express her gratitude to her friends in England, in terms strong enough; but said she prayed daily for a blessing on her benefactors, and taught her infant children to do the same.

EXTRACTS OF LETTERS

FROM THE

REV. EBENEZER HENDERSON.

Veile, in Jutland, April 9, 1816.

ON the 2nd instant, after being furnished with letters from the Committee of the Danish Bible Society, to the Bishops of Fühnen, Aarhus, Viborg, Aalborg, and Ribe, I took my departure from Copenhagen, and proceeded across the island of Zealand to Corsöer, at which place I arrived about midnight. Next day, I crossed the Great Belt, and pursued my course to Odensee, the capital of Fühnen. I waited, the following forenoon, on the Right Rev. Dr. Plum, Bishop of Fühnen, and was received by him in the kindest and most affectionate manner. As his Lordship intended setting off for Copenhagen the following day, I found his time much occupied; so that, on my first introduction, I had only an opportunity of barely stating the object of my journey, and recommending the formation of Bible Societies in his diocese. Being, however, invited to dine with him, I brought forward the matter more fully, and was happy to find that his Lordship was disposed to promote the cause, to the utmost of his power.

In the evening, we went together to the palace, when I had the honour of being presented to His Highness, Prince Christian, whose well known disposition to patronize and advance every benevolent and public undertaking, left me no room to doubt that he would cordially approve of the formation of a Bible Society in Fühnen. His Highness received me in a very condescending manner, and expressed in high terms his approbation of my labours in Iceland, and his admiration of the principles and success of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The conversation then turned on the Danish Bible Society, the translation and circulation of the Scriptures, and the eligibility of establishing Auxiliary Institutions, in aid of the Parent Society, in different parts of the kingdom. His Highness declared it was his cordial wish to see an Association of the kind formed here, and regretted that the absence of the Bishop would render it impossible to do any thing at the present moment. However, as the Annual Meeting of the Fühnen Literary Society, which is attended by most of the Clergy, and many of the leading people in the island, takes place at Odensee, on the 7th of May, His Highness was of opinion, that a more suitable occasion could not be obtained, and requested

me to return to Odensee, after completing my tour in Jutland, as he was pleased to consider it a desirable thing, that I should be present at the first Meeting. In this, his Lordship, Bishop Plum, cordially concurred; and we took leave, after I had promised to return by the beginning of next month.

On the 5th, I proceeded to Sauderumgaard, the seat of His Excellency, Privy Counsellor Bülow, to whom I had letters of introduction from Copenhagen. His Excellency is a friend and promoter of every good work, and in him the Bible Society possesses a noble and powerful supporter. At his house I had the pleasure of forming an acquaintance with Lieutenant Colonel Guldberg, a son of the immortal Guldberg, than whom Denmark never produced a warmer admirer of the Holy Scriptures, or a Statesman, who devoted more of his time and attention to their study and interpretation.

The two following days I spent in the company of the Rev. Messieurs Boesen and Balslev, whose unremitting endeavours to promote the circulation of the Scriptures, are already well known to the Committee.

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Christiansfeld, April 25, 1816.

I HAVE recently visited the Bishops of Aarhuus, Viborg, and Aalborg, all of whom expressed their approbation of the object of the Bible Society, and their determination to do all that lies in their power to promote its attainment. The Right Rev. Dr. Birch, of Aarhuus, has already collected 1100 rix Bank dollars, in aid of the funds of the Society, and is deeply convinced of the importance of the Scriptures as a book of instruction in the schools, and the cottages of the peasants.

His Excellency, Baron Gyldenkrone, I also found a warm friend for the cause. In Viborg, I met with the kindest reception from the Right Rev. Dr. Bloch, who is regarded as the first Greek scholar in Denmark. It is his full determination to establish an Auxiliary Society in Viborg, at the Meeting of the Synod in the month of July next, when he intends making the importance of circulating the Scriptures the subject of his Charge to the Clergy; and minor Associations, he hopes, will follow of course, when once the attention of the Clergy has been directed to their importance and utility.

On my way to Aalborg, I passed through the small trading town of Hobroe, the birth place of Laurence Stistrup, a pious Merchant, who, having no heirs, bequeathed the whole of his property to the noble object of supplying the poor in the Danish dominions with the word of God. This took place about the middle of last century, and a considerable number of Bibles and New Testaments have ever since been distributed annually, till within the last ten or fifteen years.

Odensee, May 8, 1816.

By the blessing of God, I again arrived in this town, in good health, on the 5th instant, when I was favoured with another audience of the amiable Prince, whose cordial approbation of the measures taken by the Bible Society I had occasion to notice in my late communications. Nor can I forbear mentioning the gratification it afforded Her Highness the Princess, to be informed of the progress of the different Societies, and especially of the welcome supply that had been sent to the worthy inhabitants of Iceland.

At the Meeting of the Literary Society, held yesterday in this town, his Lordship, Bishop Plum, gave intimation that a Meeting was fixed to be held on the following morning, for the purpose of forming an Auxiliary Bible Society for the island of Fühnen. The Meeting took place, accordingly, this morning, at eight o'clock, in the Consistory Hall, under the auspices of His Highness Prince Christian, and was attended by His Excellency Privy-Counsellor Bülow, and other gentlemen of the first respectability. The business commenced with a luminous speech by the Bishop, on Bible Societies, and the importance of distributing the Holy Scriptures. His Lordship then read the Laws of the Danish Bible Society in Copenhagen, after which he proposed that a Committee be immediately nominated for the purpose of modifying and realizing the Regulations of the Parent Institution. Besides a number of Directors resident in the town, several Co-Directors were nominated from among the gentlemen present, who resided in the country, to whom it was recommended to promote the formation of Branch Societies, and Bible Associations, in their respective spheres of action.

Sleswig, May 20, 1816.

On the 13th, I set out for Ribe, the only See in Jutland I had not visited, where I arrived the following day, and remained till the 18th, during which time I had several important conversations with His Lordship, Bishop Hiört, on the subject of my mission. The plan of the Society had already circulated in his diocese, where a deplorable want of the Scripture prevails; and he promised to lose no time, after the return of the Lord Lieutenant, in organizing an Auxiliary Society in Ribe, and minor Associations in different parts of the country.

The 19th, I spent with the Rev. Mr. Windekilde, one of those excellent men, whose soul is wrapped up in the success of the Gospel, and who endeavour by every means in their power to promote the glory of God, and the best interests of mankind.

An address and subscription paper from the Sleswig-Holstein Bible Society was in circulation among his parishioners; and he had every reason to conclude, that, notwithstanding the general want of money in these parts, the contributions would be considerable. Where this paper had already circulated, it was found that most proprietors, many of the inferior class of the peasantry, and

a considerable number of servants, had signed their names, either for donations or annual subscriptions.

In the parish of Loydt, about ten miles further south, I found, likewise, that a subscription had been set on foot by the worthy Pastor, Matthiessen, to whom, as well as to Mr. Windekilde, I recommended the plan of Bible Associations, which they will be able to carry into effect with the greatest facility, as there are in both parishes several hundred souls, who make the one thing needful the supreme object of their care.

On my arrival in Sleswig, I was received with open arms by our worthy friend Dean Callisen, to whose enlightened, zealous, and unwearied exertions, the establishment of a Bible Society for the Dukedoms, is principally to be ascribed. The Society is in full activity, and increasing in its funds, and its sphere of action, every day. Associations are formed, or forming, in almost every part of the country.

At Kiel and Rendsburg, two important Branches have been established, the latter of which has already collected upwards of 1600 marks. It gave me much pleasure to find the Members of the Sleswig-Holstein Committee enter with zeal and ardour into the cause. Your recent gift of 300*l.* has excited much interest, and many unfeigned thanksgivings to God on your behalf.

P.S. His Serene Highness the Landgrave of Hesse is warmly interested in the Bible cause; I have had the honour of dining with him, during my stay here.



Sleswig, June 29, 1816.

FROM the communications of the Very Rev. Dean Callisen, you will have learned the circumstances connected with the establishment of the Sleswig-Holstein Bible Society, the principles and rules of its constitution, and the means which the Committee have agreed to employ for attaining the grand object of their union.

As soon as matters were put in a proper train in this town, letters, accompanied with copies of the laws and regulations, were forwarded by the General Superintendent, the Right Rev. Doctor Adler, to all the Deans in the two Dukedoms, requesting them to communicate the same to their Clergy, and recommend the formation of Bible Associations in the different parishes, and the opening of subscriptions for the funds of the Institution.

There is reason to hope, that there are but few churches in the Dukedoms, (the number of which amounts to 442,) in which notice has not been given, from the pulpit, of the formation and object of the Society. Many of the Clergy have delivered animated and appropriate discourses on the subject; and endeavoured, by this means, to excite the attention of their hearers to the Sacred Oracles as the only infallible Repository of religious truth, and the inexhaustible source of wisdom, strength, and consolation.

Considering the short time that has elapsed since the full organization of the Society, it must afford great pleasure to every friend of the Bible, to be informed, that Auxiliary Societies, and

Bible Associations, have already been established in different parts of the country, and that in many places similar Institutions are in a considerable degree of forwardness, though they have not yet received their final establishment.

I now directed my course to Meldorp, the principal town in southern Detmarsh, where I was kindly received by Mr. Bruhns, a pious Merchant, who is Treasurer of the Bible Union at this place. The Society had been formed a few weeks previously to my arrival, under the Presidency of the Very Reverend Dean Clasen, and not less than ninety-eight rix dollars have already been collected.

My next resting place was a spot which you will still recollect, and where you are remembered with the liveliest feelings of Christian love and esteem, the estate of Mr. Manhardt at Hancrau. Here I was received in the most affectionate manner by the whole family, who all feel a deep interest in the propagation of the Gospel, and the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom. I have already noticed, that there exists a Bible Association at this place. I am happy to add, that all who form the Committee of Management, are individuals who themselves read the Bible, and prefer its treasure to "much fine gold," and are anxiously desirous of imparting this inexhaustible source of riches and happiness to their fellow-men. On the evening of Sunday, the 16th of June, the Committee and friends of the Association, to the number of 50 or 60, met at Mr. Manhardt's, when, after introducing me to them, he left me to fight my way as well as I could in German; and it was truly gratifying to observe, with what eagerness they listened to the view I gave them of the origin, progress, and effects, of the different Bible Societies that are now scattered over almost every part of the globe.

When I had finished, we were favoured with a most excellent speech from the Clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Vent, on the inestimable worth of the Bible, its suppression during the long reign of blind superstition, and the infamous measures that have of late years been used for the purpose of weakening its authority, and effecting its ultimate banishment from Christendom. After Mr. Manhardt, who followed, had concluded a number of the most appropriate and interesting observations, he took me by the hand, and, in the name of the Association, charged me to convey to the British and Foreign Bible Society their *unfeigned gratitude* for the illustrious example which had stimulated them to exertion, and to assure you, that they should undeviatingly follow in the path which you have trodden, and pray for the richest blessing of Heaven on your noble and unremitting endeavours to impart the words of eternal life to those that are near, and to them that are far off.

On the 20th, I arrived in Rendsburg, where I met with a cordial welcome from the Very Reverend Dean Callisen, and the other Members of the Rendsburg Committee, who proceed with spirit and vigour in their endeavours to attain the grand end of their Institution. It is greatly to be deplored, that all the newly

formed Societies should be cramped in their exertions, for want of Bibles. The requisitions from Russia, Prussia, &c. are more than can be met by the Canstein Institution at Halle; so that the friends in the Dukedoms are obliged to use the utmost economy in the distribution of the small number of copies which they have been able to obtain. From Rendsburg I made a small excursion to Emkendorf, where I met with the kindest reception from the Count and Countess, who enter with their whole soul into the plan of the Society. I here spent two days in the most agreeable manner. The Countess, who is truly an example of faith and patience, still suffers much, and is so reduced, that you would suppose her incapable of following the progress of the numerous Institutions for propagating the Gospel; yet she is acquainted with almost every step they have taken, manifests the most lively interest in what is going on among the Heathen, and supports with the utmost vigour the measures that are adopting in her vicinity for the distribution of the Scriptures.

Altona, August 1, 1816.

THE Borbye Bible Society, I was happy to find, is in a flourishing state. His Excellency, Count Stolberg, of Windebye, is the first Member, and one of its most active and generous supporters.

My next station was Kiel, where a Bible Association had been formed on the 18th of May. Most of the Professors are either Members of the Committee, or subscribers to the Institution. It was resolved, that the designation of the Institution should henceforth be "The Bible Society of Kiel," and that it should extend its operations to all the parishes of the Deanery.

Immediately on my arrival in Eutin, I waited on Dr. Olshausen, the Superintendent of the Principality, the President of Government, the Burgomaster, and several others, who I had reason to hope would countenance the establishment of a Bible Society in the place. I was happy to find, that they were all disposed to give the object the benefit of their influence and support; and it was agreed, that a Meeting should be held the following Sunday evening, (the 21st of July,) for the purpose of deliberating on the most eligible mode of proceeding in the formation of the Society.

At the time appointed, I had the satisfaction of meeting eleven of the first people of the town of Eutin, at the house of Dr. Olshausen, who explained to them the definite object of the Meeting, and read a plan, which had previously been drawn up, for the constitution and operations of the projected Society. The plan was unanimously adopted; and it was resolved, that a Bible Society should be formed for the principality of Luebeck; that

the Society should be considered as provisionally constituted; but that, previously to the plan being laid before the public, and their being solicited to participate, His Serene Highness, the Duke of Oldenburg should be requested to become Patron of the Society. It was in the highest degree pleasing to witness the unanimity, cordiality, and interest, which prevailed on this occasion, and which may reasonably be regarded as prophetic of the future success of this establishment.

Barth, in Pomerania, September 2, 1816.

FROM Eutin I proceeded to Luebeck, where I waited on the Burgomaster, Overbeck, the worthy President of the Bible Society, who received me in the most friendly manner, as did also the Members of the Committee, with whom I had the pleasure of becoming personally acquainted. In the Rev. Mr. Geibel, in particular, I found one of the most enlightened, zealous, and active ministers I have met with. The Society had lately held their Annual Meeting, when a report of their proceedings was presented, from which it appears, that they have distributed upwards of 700 copies of the whole Bible, and about 300 copies of the New Testament, since the commencement of their operations. The general stagnation of trade, and the consequent exhaustion of the usual channels of wealth in this city, are at present very unfavourable to the extension of their plan. Between 3 and 400 houses are shut up for want of inhabitants, and a great proportion of the community are reduced to circumstances of perplexity and distress.

In Altona, I met with the most cordial reception from those active friends of the Gospel, the Messrs. Van der Smisens, in whose house I took up my lodgings, in consequence of a pressing invitation from our mutual friend, Mr. Gilbert Van der Smissen. To you, who have yourself spent some time in the house, it is unnecessary to describe the general piety, the liberality of Christian sentiment, and the pure, enlarged, and active benevolence which pervade the whole of this family circle. Their business and connexions are of the most extensive nature; but all is consecrated to the Lord, and carried on with a view to his glory.

On the 8th ult. I attended the General Meeting of the Hamburg-Altona Bible Society, which was held in the Consistorial Chamber of St. Michael's Church, and honoured with the presence of some of the first people in both towns. The Burgomaster, Von Graffen, the President of the Society, opened the business with an appropriate speech, on the cause to which the success of Bible Societies, in some places more than in others, was to be ascribed; and was followed by the Rev. Mr. Willerding, one of the Vice-Presidents, who expatiated on the practical importance of the subject. A most explicit and eloquent Report

was then read by the Secretary, Mr. Runge, which gave universal satisfaction, and seemed in no small degree to excite those feelings of benevolent joy so strongly depicted in the countenance of those who have the privilege of attending your London Anniversary. The indispensable necessity of putting the Scriptures into the hands of youth, formed the subject of a speech from the Rev. Mr. Mutzenbecher; and the solemnity was concluded by the Very Reverend the Dean of Altona.

I left Hamburg on the 13th, and arrived, the same evening, at Ratzeburg, the seat of the Lauenburg Government, where, on inquiry, I found, that as yet no step had been taken towards the formation of a Bible Society.

Immediately on my arrival, I waited on His Excellency, Count Reventlow, who is appointed by the Danish Government to take possession of Lauenburg; and, as I had every reason to expect, met with the most cordial reception, both from him and his excellent lady, the Countess, whose acquaintance I had the honour of forming, at their seat, on my journey through Holstein.

On the 16th, I attended a preliminary meeting, at the Rev. Mr. Wienecke's, at which it was agreed, that a Society should be formed, and that Sunday evening, the 18th, should be fixed on for that purpose.

On the evening appointed, about fifteen of the most respectable inhabitants assembled at the Rev. Mr. Wienecke's, when His Excellency, Count Reventlow, having taken the Chair, the business of the evening was opened by the Rev. Mr. Wienecke, in a short speech, which contained a number of very pertinent remarks on the utility and importance of Bible Societies. It was agreed, that the designation of the Institution should be, "The Lauenburg-Ratzeburg Bible Society," and that the sphere of its operations should comprise the Duchy and Principality known under these names. It was finally resolved, that a statement of the proceedings of the evening, accompanied with a petition for the sanction of the respective Governments, should be drawn up, and dispatched, without loss of time, to Copenhagen and Strelitz; and that, as soon as an answer was obtained, a General Meeting should be held, and the Society receive its complete organization. To encourage and aid their exertions, I held out to them the promise of 100*l.* or 150*l.*

My next station was Schwerin, where I waited on the Very Reverend the Superintendent Ackermann, Vice-President of the Mecklenburg-Schwerin Bible Society, who received me in the kindest manner, and expressed in the warmest terms the sense of gratitude the Committee entertained for the liberal donation made by the British and Foreign Bible Society. The Grand Duke himself has accepted of the patronage of the Society, and, with the other members of the Ducal Family, has added his name to the list of subscribers. The Directors have opened a correspondence with different parts of the Duchy, and would long ere now have been in full activity, had it not been for the want of

Bibles. I also waited on the President, the Honourable Mr. Rudloff, Counsellor of Government, a gentleman of the most active habits, who enters warmly into the cause of the Society, and the Rev. Mr. Studemand, junior, the Secretary, both of whom rejoiced to hear of the unparalleled exertions now making for the diffusion of Gospel light among all nations.

It being considered a desirable thing, that an Auxiliary Institution should be established at Rostock, a mercantile town, containing about 13,000 inhabitants, the seat of a University, and the centre of very extensive connexions in the north of Mecklenburg, some steps had been taken, with that view; but, not having met with the desired success, the business had been dropped. With the approbation of the Directors in Schwerin, I engaged to renew the attempt; and having had a letter of introduction to the Rev. Dr. Krey, he had the kindness to go with me to the rest of the Clergy, several of the Professors, and different Gentlemen in office, who were known to be friendly to the cause.

Fourteen of them assembled, on the 30th, in the house of the Rev. Magister Detlarding; and it was resolved, that a Society should be formed, under the designation of the "Rostock Bible Society," for the town of Rostock, and the northern parts of the Duchy of Mecklenburg; five Directors, two Secretaries, a Treasurer, and a Depositary, were chosen; and it was agreed, that, as soon as they obtained the sanction of the Grand Duke, a printed address should be laid before the public, and the necessary measures taken for increasing the funds of the Society, explaining its views, and paving the way for the commencement of its operations. Upwards of 40 dollars were subscribed on the spot.

Having thus had the happiness of seeing the foundation of a Bible Society laid in Rostock, and commended it to the care of Him whose blessing alone can give efficiency and success to its operations, I left that town, on the 31st, and arrived, the same evening, in this place, where I have been received in the most affectionate manner by the Honourable Mr. Von Mevius, to whose enlightened zeal and unremitting activity the Bible Society for Pomerania and Rügen is indebted for its existence and prosperity. In the company of this aged nobleman, and his daughter, (who shares the views, the piety, and the zeal of her venerable parent,) I have spent three days in the most edifying manner; and am maturing the plan of an Auxiliary Society for the town and deanery of Barth, which met with the cordial approbation of my noble friend.

Berlin, September 23, 1816.

IN my letter of the 2d instant, I stated, that I was then maturing a plan for the formation of an Auxiliary in Barth, the town from which the exertions in behalf of the cause in Pomerania emanated. Having been apprised of the plan through the me-

dium of a circular letter, the subscribers met, on the 4th, in the house of the Honourable Mr. Von Mevius, who presided on the occasion; and, after a very spirited address by the worthy Assessor, Mr. Henning, M.D. in which the most honourable mention was made of the British and Foreign Bible Society, it was resolved, that the gentlemen then present should form themselves into a Society, under the designation of the "Auxiliary Bible Committee for the Town and Deanery of Barth," the sole object of which should be, to co-operate with the Central Committee in Stralsund, and give full effect to its plans, with respect to this part of the province. The same day, I set off for Stralsund, where I arrived early in the afternoon, and waited immediately on the Secretaries, and several other Members of the Committee, all of whom received me with open arms, and rejoiced to hear of the increasing interest in favour of the Bible cause, in different parts of the world.

On the morning of the 5th, I paid my respects to the Burgo-master Kühl, Vice-President of the Society, who immediately resolved to call a meeting of the Committee, in the afternoon; which meeting, accordingly, took place; and one of the Secretaries, at the request of the Chairman, gave me the following official statement of their constitution and proceedings:

"Encouraged by the promise of pecuniary aid from the Bible Society in London, and several subscriptions which had been obtained in consequence of it, a number of the friends of the Bible assembled in the Town-House in Stralsund, on the 23d of January, 1816, who formed a Bible Society, under the designation of 'The Bible Society for Pomerania and Rugen.' A Special Committee was at the same time chosen, for the purpose of managing the business of the Society; consisting of a President, a Vice-President, six Directors, two Secretaries, a Depositary, and a Treasurer. A constitution for this Society was drawn up, and made public, by means of a printed Address, and twenty-three correspondents were successively chosen in different parts of the province, in order to afford the good cause universal introduction and prosperity; the result of which has been, that a considerable number of subscribers have actually come forward in every division of the province; and, though the subscription-papers have not yet all been returned, there are, at present, in the hands of the Treasurer, no less than 992 rix dollars, 12 shillings, including the donation of 100*l.* from the Society in London, which has been drawn for through Mr. Gilbert Van der Smissen, of Altona.

"It has been taken into consideration by the Committee, whether they ought not to print a separate edition of the Bible, for their own use; but, finding the undertaking to be impracticable, they gave orders for the immediate purchase of a number of Bibles and New Testaments. The arrival of these copies, which has been partly protracted by the numerous orders on Halle, is now daily expected; and as soon as we are in pos-

session of them, our distribution of the Holy Scriptures will commence."

The Vice-President then charged me, as he had done at the beginning of the Meeting, to convey to the Members of the British and Foreign Bible Society their most unfeigned and heartfelt thanks for the stimulus originally given to the zeal of the Christian public in these parts, and more especially for the very liberal donation they had recently received from your bounty.

Now that inquiries have been instituted in various places, the attention of the people is turned anew to the transcendent value of the best of books; and the want of the blessed treasure is found to be much greater than was expected. In one village, where a sick traveller had been taken ill, and wished to soothe her mind with the balm of divine consolation, so richly contained in the Bible, the strictest inquiry was made for a copy; but, alas! not one was to be found: there was not so much as a single house in possession of the words of eternal life.

I next visited the Island of Rügen, where it had originally been my intention to form one or more subordinate Societies. But as the Stralsund Committee had yet to fix the boundaries of the field to be occupied by each, I contented myself with visiting some of the principal and most worthy clergymen, and soliciting their active co-operation. They assured me, they could dispose of hundreds of copies of the Scriptures, in the course of one week, could they only obtain them for sale. At Greifswald I twice met some of the Professors; and it was agreed, that one of the Stralsund Secretaries should be invited to come to Greifswald, and introduce the business, as soon as every necessary preliminary had been settled in the Parent Committee.

Numerous subscriptions have been obtained in this town, *sixty* of which are from females, whose attention had been called to the subject by a truly excellent Christian Lady, whose name I am not at liberty to mention, but who already enjoys her reward, in beholding the success that has followed her exertions.

There was now only one link wanted to complete the chain of Bible Societies in the north of Germany—a Mecklenburg-Strelitz Bible Society. On my arrival in New Strelitz, I waited on the Superintendent, Dr. Glass, who assured me, that the cause met with his entire approbation, and that he would be happy to do every thing in his power towards the establishment of a similar Institution in those parts, where the Scriptures were much wanted, and the impoverished state of the inhabitants loudly called for the exercise of Christian benevolence. This gentleman had the kindness to present me to some of the Serene Members of the reigning Family, who expressed their cordial approbation of the object; but, as the Grand Duke himself was absent, the Superintendent deemed it advisable to defer the establishment of the proposed Society till his return; and engaged, immediately after, to transmit to London an official account of the steps taken in its formation.

From Strelitz I proceeded direct to this city, where I arrived on the 17th, in the expectation of meeting Mr. Pinkerton, but he has not yet made his appearance. The intervening days I have spent with the Rev. Mr. Jænicke, and several other Members of the Prussian Committee, from whom I have received very pleasing accounts of the rapid progress of the cause in this kingdom. They have lately celebrated their Second Anniversary; it was attended by a prodigious number of persons, who listened with the deepest interest to the report that was given of their proceedings. The printing of the Turkish Bible has advanced as far as the 26th sheet. The health of His Excellency, Privy Counsellor Von Diez, is wonderfully supported. This work engages his whole attention, and proves the joy and solace of his heart.



Hamburg, October 20, 1816.

THIS day's mail brought me your very important letter of the 14th instant, conveying to me the earnest wish of the Committee, that I should proceed, without delay, to the assistance of my dear fellow-labourer, Mr. Paterson, in St. Petersburg. The call was of so urgent and pressing a nature, as not to admit of a moment's deliberation. I had just preached from those remarkable words of our Saviour, "Remember Lot's wife;" and in preaching again from them in the evening, I was to dwell particularly on the passage, "And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee, but let me first bid them farewell which are at home in my house; and Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke ix. 61, 62.) The question put by the Apostle came home with power to my mind: "Thou, therefore, which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself?" (Rom. i. 21.) It was my intention to have sailed immediately for Scotland. The vessel and the day of departure were determined. Numerous subjects, of a domestic nature, which had been absent from my mind for years, now began to crowd upon me. My continental labours appeared to be brought to a close for the present, and I already imagined myself in the bosom of my expecting friends.

Surely it is not in man that walketh, to direct his steps. While I was feeding on these pleasing dreams, and hoping soon to see them realized, I heard, on a sudden, a voice behind me, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." I turned to the voice that spake, and, behold, my way was plain before me. The incalculable importance of the operations now going on in Russia, and the closest bonds of Christian affection which have uninterruptedly subsisted between Mr. Paterson and myself, from the first moment that we became acquainted with one another, at once produced a complete revolution in my mind. Had I not come to the determination instantly to comply with your request,

how could I have borne the cutting reflection, "Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world!"

Excepting a day or two at Dantzic and Königsberg, which places have not had a visit from any of us, it is not my purpose to tarry a moment by the way.

I beg you will assure the Committee of my unwearied regard, and my gratitude for the confidence they place in me. I desire to be particularly remembered by them in prayer, that I may have grace given me to be faithful, and to fulfil the ministry I have received of the Lord. The work is connected with many difficulties; but, with Omnipotence on our side, what may we not achieve!

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Mittau, November 29, 1816.

It gave me much pleasure, the day before I set out on my journey, to have a copy of the Altona Almanack for 1817 put into my hands, containing a well written account of Bible Societies in general, and particularly of the Sleswig-Holstein Institution. A more effectual method of calling the attention of the Holstein peasantry to this important topic could hardly have been devised, as this vehicle of information is sure to find access, where every other must have failed.

The Lauenburg-Ratzeburg Bible Society has received the sanction both of the Danish and Mecklenburg Governments: that of His Majesty the King of Denmark was expressed in terms of the most gracious approbation. The Rostock Society has, in like manner, been assured of the protection of His Serene Highness, the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, and is proceeding to measures of publicity, organization, and effective operation.

On passing through Dantzic, I waited on the Vice-President of the Dantzic Bible Society, the Rev. Mr. Ewald, who had the most active hand in its formation, and the two Secretaries; by all of whom I was received in the most affectionate manner: none could find terms sufficiently strong, in which to express their sense of obligation to the British and Foreign Bible Society. The exertions of the friends here are only circumscribed by want of copies for distribution. From the commencement of the year, till the 10th of October, the Committee have brought 409 Bibles and New Testaments into circulation. It is more than two years since 1000 copies were ordered from Halle; and the total they have received at different times amounts to only 700.

Many poor people have received the promise of copies upwards of a year ago, but cannot yet be supplied. When it is made known that a partial supply has arrived, the house of the Depository is crowded; and, to use the language of one of the Dantzic friends, the copies go off like the morning rolls from the bakers.

In Königsberg I found two Bible Societies: the older, which had conducted the impression of the Lithuanian Scriptures; and that more recently established as an Auxiliary to the Central Bible Society in Berlin. In both of these the worthy Bishop Borowsky takes the deepest interest; and it is his intention, at the First Annual Meeting, to have them united into one. In order to secure the immediate distribution of the Lithuanian Scriptures, letters were sent to the seven Superintendents, requesting them to institute the necessary inquiries; and 1878 copies of the whole Bible, and 532 New Testaments, have already been brought into circulation. The friends in Königsberg complain much of the want of German Bibles. Scarcely a day passes in which application is not made to the Bishop for copies, which he is under the painful necessity of refusing.

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St. Petersburg, December 25, 1816.

WITH you, and our other friends, I had rejoiced to hear, from time to time, of the spirit which animated, and the prosperity which attended, the exertions of the Russian Bible Society; but now that I have seen with my eyes what is going forward in this metropolis, and the manner in which the business is conducted, I am constrained to acknowledge, that "the half hath not been told me." Here are men who view the Bible cause, I was going to say, in all the magnitude of its importance—but that is impossible; it is unattainable by the mightiest mind, either of man or angel. But they really do consider it as one of the most momentous objects that can possibly claim their attention. The liberal and substantial basis on which their union has been formed; the Imperial patronage and bounty which it has experienced; the zeal, wisdom, and activity of its Directors, and its present comprehensive undertakings, all entitle it to the first rank in the scale of those noble Institutions which have for their sole object, to extend the knowledge of divine love to man.

With glad surprise you have contemplated the exertions of the Russian Bible Society, in its dawn. You have watched its progress with a growing interest, and regarded the rapid accumulation of its energies as one of the most striking moral phenomena of the age; but these are merely incipient successes. Nothing may be said to have been achieved, in comparison with what remains to be done, and which, by the divine blessing, shall be accomplished in due time. It is true, the Society has, within the short space of four years, printed the Scriptures, in whole, or in part, in no fewer than sixteen different languages; yet it has been ascertained, that the languages and dialects used within the limits of this immense empire, constitute nearly an eighth part spoken on the face of the globe. Now, granting that some of these dialects approximate so nearly to each other as to be mutually understood

by the different tribes, and that others are current among a population so scanty, as to render it advisable rather to teach them to peruse the Volume of Revelation in a foreign language, than be at the trouble and expense of translating it into their vernacular tongue; what a number still remain, in which the glad tidings of saving mercy have never been sounded! How great the aggregate of human beings, under the Russian Sceptre, whose minds have never been illumined with the light of the glory of God, as it shines in the face of Jesus Christ! The time, however, the set time, appears to be come, when the true light shall shine on those who have hitherto dwelt "in the land of the shadow of death;" and "they shall all gather themselves together," and flow as one stream into the church of the living God, to learn his ways, and walk in his paths. The fanatical Mahomedan, the superstitious Shamanian, and the gentle, but deluded Lamaist, shall ere long confess, that they have given heed unto lying vanities; and join in adoring the "Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world."

We wait with the most anxious impatience for the appearance of the brightest gem in the Imperial Crown of Alexander—the translation of the glorious Gospel into the modern Russian. Through this medium, the fountain of living waters will be rendered accessible to upwards of thirty-four millions of our fellow-men. The translation is going forward. Pray that the Divine Spirit, under whose infallible inspiration the Sacred Writings were originally composed, may rest in an abundant measure upon the translators; that they may be enabled to give their countrymen a faithful and luminous exhibition of the revealed will of God.

From the eagerness with which the Russians purchase the Slavonian Scriptures, we may form some conception of the avidity with which they will receive the Bible in their common dialect.

When it was recently intimated, that 500 copies of the Slavonian Bible were ready for sale, the Depository was almost stormed, and the whole number went off instantly. Not a mail leaves St. Petersburg, without carrying along with it some copies of the word of God; and few return without letters of thanks, fresh orders, or the pleasing information of the establishment of new Societies.



Bible Society's House, St. Petersburg, January 9, 1817

It was cause of no small joy and thanksgiving, to find that our beloved friend Paterson was not so seriously ill as the accounts from London had led me to apprehend; though I found him very much reduced, and greatly in need of assistance. Besides superintending the printing of the Scriptures in many different languages, (a work of itself more laborious than most constitutions can bear,) he has accumulated an immense load of correspondence; add to

these, the principal care of the *Depôt*, and, latterly, the fitting up of the house for the purposes of the Society devolved upon him. He has indeed laboured, not only to the extent of his ability, but beyond it; nor could he have gone through what he has done, had it not been that his heart was so completely in this work, that every personal consideration was swallowed up in the vast importance of the object before him.

You may easily conceive with what feelings I drove up to the house of the Bible Society. It is a fine stone building, three stories and a half in height, and stands quite insulated, on the east side of St. Catharine's Canal, on a portion of ground attached to the garden of the Summer Palace. What renders its situation particularly remarkable, is, its commanding the view of the churches belonging to most of the confessions, the members of which it is designed to supply with the words of eternal life. Nor is it unworthy of notice, that the next house towards the south, is the famous mansion formerly occupied by the Jesuits, who have been obliged to quit the empire. In the interior of the house are two divisions, to which there is a separate entrance from either end, as well as a stair-case in the middle from the court. In the one end is the *Depôt*, on the first floor; on the second are the principal apartments, one of which will be appropriated to the Meeting of the Committee; and the third floor contains the rooms for the Depositary, &c. The other end of the house is at present occupied by the printing, but will be chiefly appropriated to dwellings for the printers, when the new office is ready.

This office stands directly behind the house, and consists of a ground and upper floor; the one for the stereotype foundry, and the other for the printing. It was begun last Autumn, and will be ready in Spring. There is also a considerable piece of ground allotted to the house, which will make an excellent garden.

It is peculiarly pleasing to observe, that, in its progress towards the attainment of the grand object of its Association, the Russian Bible Society has elicited the zeal, and gained the co-operation, of all ranks and classes of men. In proof of which, we have lately had a remarkable instance, in the case of a chimney sweeper, who gave a donation of 25 rubles to the Society; and, as the person to whom he applied to receive it, remarked that the sum was certainly more than his circumstances would allow him to afford, he begged to have his name put down for the same sum annually, besides engaging to clean the chimnies of the Society's house, gratis, which would otherwise have cost the Society at least 100 rubles per annum. The anecdote was related at the last Meeting of the Committee, where it was heard with the deepest interest; and, as a mark of acknowledgment for so distinguished an instance of liberality, they voted their benefactor a quarto copy of the German Bible, with a suitable recognition of his deed in writing.

It cannot fail to interest you, also, to be informed, that, in the

Taurian Peninsula, the Theodosian Bible Society has been very successful in calling the attention of the Russian soldiery to the importance of the Bible cause. Yes, those brave warriors who have so nobly assisted in emancipating Europe from the iron fetters of despotism, are now coming forward as volunteers in the service of the Lord of Hosts, against more formidable enemies. Officers, privates, and in some instances whole companies, and even invalids, have contributed to the funds of the Society. In one quarter they have collected upwards of 300 rubles in this way. Nor is it in this part of the army alone, that an interest has been excited. Copies of the Scriptures have been forwarded all the way to France, for the Russian division serving in that kingdom; and fresh demands have recently been made from the same quarter.



Bible Society's House, St. Petersburg, January 17, 1817.

REFERRING to my last, of the 24th ult., I hasten to acquaint you with a circumstance which cannot fail to excite the most lively emotions of joy and gratitude in the minds of all who feel the importance of circulating, to the widest possible extent, the charter of eternal life among their fellow men. Of the deep interest which His Imperial Majesty, Alexander, takes in the prosperity of this sacred cause, we have already been furnished with repeated and most convincing proofs. Each successive Report which your Committee have laid before the world, has disclosed some fresh act of benevolence and munificence, on the part of this illustrious Monarch; but, in your next detail, you will have to record an assemblage of acts which cannot but have the most direct and mighty influence on the operations of the Russian Bible Society.

We were gratified, the other day, with the intelligence, that the Emperor had lately expressed a most lively desire to see the exertions of the Russian Bible Society in some degree commensurate with the wants of his empire; and waiting, the day before yesterday, on the worthy President, we were happy to have the account fully corroborated.

His Excellency had lately been desired by the Emperor to lay before him a selection of the more important correspondence and documents in the possession of the Committee; which he accordingly did, and had the satisfaction to find that the perusal of them afforded His Majesty the most heart-felt delight. "It is not in my power," said His Majesty, "to be present at the Meetings of your Committee; but I beg you will lay before me an account of your interesting Proceedings." The Emperor added, it was with the deepest concern he had observed, that, with their most strenuous exertions, the Bible Society had not been able to satisfy the urgent demand for the Holy Scriptures, especially the Slavonian, and that he hoped the Committee would take into im-

mediate consideration the measures necessary to be adopted, in order to render the distribution proportionate to the extent of the want. "Do the Committee," he asked, "stand in need of money, or of people? Only let me know; I am at your disposal."

St. Petersburg, January 26, 1817.

I TRANSMITTED an account of a fresh proof which His Imperial Majesty has lately given of the interest he takes in the cause of the Bible Society. I now send you an important communication made by Prince Galitzin to the Printing Committee, with a view of forwarding the measures necessary to be taken in order to gratify the benevolent wishes of the Emperor, in regard to the extensive operations of the Society.

The translation of the document is the first fruit of my study of the Russian language, and a more auspicious subject I could not have chosen for my first attempt.

"To the Printing Committee of the Russian Bible Society."

"His Majesty, taking a particular interest in the universal increase of the salutary reading of the word of God, has ordered me to lay before him all the accounts and papers read at the Meetings of the Russian Bible Society, which contain the most remarkable facts relative to the progress of the Russian Bible Society, and of those existing in the world at large.

"In consequence of this order, I furnished His Imperial Majesty with certain documents read at the last Meeting of the Committee; and it was with the greatest satisfaction that His Majesty observed the extraordinary desire for reading the Sacred Scriptures so rapidly increasing among the inhabitants of the Russian Empire, and which has already risen to such a height, that the demand for those Divine Books far exceeds the number of copies which the Bible Society, with the utmost energy of its present operations, can possibly furnish. His Majesty, entering with his whole soul into the plan, is determined that all means in his power shall be employed, that can contribute to satisfy this appetite for spiritual nourishment among the people whom the providence of the Most High has placed under his sceptre; he has therefore directed, that his gracious pleasure should be signified to the Committee of the Russian Bible Society, that they proceed immediately to the adoption of such measures as shall be found necessary for augmenting the impression of the Books of Holy Scripture, in a degree proportioned to the necessity of the case. His Imperial Majesty will not fail, on his part, to render the Russian Bible Society every needful assistance in the prosecution of its philanthropic and truly christian exertions, which are regarded by His Majesty with peculiar satisfaction.

"In order to carry into effect the will of our Most Gracious Sovereign, I propose to the Printing Committee, that they institute an inquiry, without loss of time, into all the measures requisite for the speedy multiplication of the Books of Holy Scripture, and for doubling, at least, the number already printing under their direction. The decision of this Committee must be laid before the Committee of the Russian Bible Society, for deliberation, at their First Meeting; and we may then hope, that, by the divine assistance, we shall be fully able to meet the christian views of our benevolent Monarch."

(Signed) PRINCE ALEXANDER GALITZIN,
President of the Russian Bible Society.

A Meeting of the Printing Committee was accordingly held, last Wednesday, in the house of the Bible Society, at which the above communication was read: as was naturally to be expected, it called forth expressions of the liveliest joy and gratitude from all present.

The Committee then proceeded to the discussion of the different points necessarily arising out of the question; and a plan for extending the printing, made out and presented by Mr. Paterson, was read, and cordially approved by the Committee.



St. Petersburg, January 26, 1817.

As it cannot but prove interesting to the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, to be made acquainted with the magnitude of the scale of operation on which it is proposed the Society here should proceed, I shall transcribe the substance of the plan.

The grand instrument in the hands of the Committee for enabling them to multiply copies of the Holy Scriptures to the greatest extent, is, the stereotype printing-office. This establishment, having existed only a year and a half, is merely in its infancy; and, like all new establishments, has had to struggle with many difficulties, at its commencement.

In order to meet the wishes of His Imperial Majesty, and, in some measure, the pressing demands for copies of the Scriptures, it is proposed, that, in addition to the six presses now at work, other six be set up, in the course of next summer and harvest; and, in the summer of 1818, four additional ones, which will make the number of presses at work sixteen; and these are as many as the present premises will contain.

(Here follows a specification of details as to what editions may be produced in 1817 and 1818.)

After the year 1818, the stereotype printing-office will furnish, annually, from 30 to 40,000 Slavonian Bibles, and from 20 to 30,000 Slavonian New Testaments, besides about 10,000 copies

from the stereotypes in other languages; and, with the same assistance which we receive at present from other printing offices, the Russian Bible Society can be certain of producing a supply of more than 100,000 Bibles and New Testaments annually. This is a supply which far exceeds our present demands; but we have every reason to expect, that the demands will increase. If they should exceed the supply proposed to be furnished, the Society must then think of new measures calculated to meet them; but, at present, more than is here proposed, cannot be effected.

I am sure you will join us anew in giving thanks to the God of all grace, for the encouragement he has bestowed upon the labourers in this part of the Biblical vineyard, at the commencement of the new year. A fresh impulse is thus given to the exertions of the Russian Bible Society, and all possible expedition will be used in removing the "stone from the well's mouth," that thirsting millions may have free access to the water of everlasting life.

EBENEZER HENDERSON.